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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIV. PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1877. NO. 123.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial—Newspaper Decisions.—1. Any one who takes a paper repeatedly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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BUSINESS OF PITTSBURGH FOR 1876.

The COMMERCIAL of SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3d, will contain its Eighth Annual Review of the Business of Pittsburgh, in the following Leading Departments:

RECEIPTS OF PIG IRON, IRON ORE AND BLOOMS, with Comparative Tables of the Preceding Four Years.

RECEIPTS OF IRON MOUNTAIN AND LAKE SUPERIOR ORES.

RECEIPTS OF COAL AND COKE, by Monongahela Slackwater, from 1844 to date; also, Shipments of Coal and Coke by River and Receipts by Rail.

STATISTICS OF THE OIL TRADE for the past Fifteen Years, with Weekly Price Current of Crude and Refined Oil.

SALES AND RESALES OF PETROLEUM in the Oil Regions.

RECEIPTS OF THE LEADING ARTICLES OF PRODUCE for Four Years past, including Flour, Wheat, Corn, Oats, Rye, Barley, Apples, Cheese, Provisions, Butter, Hay, Potatoes, etc., etc.

GRAIN RECEIPTS at the Pittsburgh Elevator for the past Four Years.

The Statistics of the Iron, Coal, Coke and Oil Trades are Complete and Reliable.

The Prices Current for Crude and Refined Oils are made up from Actual Sales, and will be found useful for those engaged in the respective branches.

Every Business Man should have these Valuable Statistics for reference. An Extra Edition will be printed, but those who desire copies of the Paper should leave their orders at the Counting Room on or before FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2.

☞ ORDERS BY MAIL WILL BE ATTENDED TO.

FIRST EDITION.

HARRISBURG.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

Discussion on the Ventilation Bill

The Local Option Bill Reported

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 31, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock.

The act granting legal rights to all citizens of the Commonwealth in borrowing or lending money was reported favorably by the committee.

A supplement to the act relating to supervisors and treasurers of townships was also reported favorably.

Mr. Conner introduced an act regulating the manner of bringing suit or suits against the State; also, providing for attachments on wages for necessaries furnished to families.

Mr. Yutzy, a bill relating to the exemption of property from levy and sale on an execution and distress for rent, declaring a waiver thereof by the debtor, excepting in certain cases, void.

The constitutional objections raised yesterday against the supplement to the act providing for the election and appointment of trustees for the State normal schools were sustained, which defeats the bill in its present shape.

An act affirming the limitation in prosecutions for forgery was passed finally; also, an act to prevent delay in the review of capital offenses in the Supreme Court.

The following bills received second reading: An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations.

Relating to arbitrators.

For the appointment of a Sealer of Weights and Measures for Washington county.

Authorizing superintendents of turnpikes or plankroads to abandon the whole or part of any such roads.

Regulating the annuity of Daniel Small, of York county, a veteran of 1812.

In relation to collateral inheritance tax as respects aliens or non-residents.

Requiring the prothonotaries of the several courts of common pleas to keep separate dockets in certain cases.

For the creation of a State Board of Health, for the protection of life and health, and to prevent the spread of disease in this Commonwealth.

Act authorizing the appointment of women as corporators in corporations of the first class.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Dunn, repealing the Jefferson township, Washington county, road law.

By Mr. Fulton, supplementary act allowing a wife to testify against her husband in criminal cases.

By Mr. Schnatterly, repealing the Saltlick township, Fayette county, road law.

By Mr. Buckman, providing for the erection of a new penitentiary in the Eastern district.

Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, from the Committee on Vice and Immorality, reported the Local Option bill.

In Committee of the Whole the Bituminous Ventilation bill was up for consideration on second reading, was amended in some important particulars, and without completing it the committee rose. It will be up again to-morrow, and will pass the House about as it passed last winter.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

A dispatch from Paducah, Ky., announces the arrest there yesterday of Robert Drury, who killed his uncle, Albert Gibson, in Memphis on last Friday night.

Marine Smith, the murderer of young Mokeon, was yesterday sentenced by Recorder Swift, of Detroit, to twenty-five years' hard labor in the State prison.

Governor Bedle, of New Jersey, declines to convene the Court of Pardons in the case of Ashwald and Ryan, sentenced to be executed at Newark, on Friday of next week, for the murder of Officer Brock.

In Philadelphia on Tuesday evening, Samuel Ewing and Joseph Keenan quarreled with John Pye and John Keegan, at Eighteenth and Marion streets. The result was Ewing was killed by Pye, and Keenan was taken to the hospital, while Pye and Keegan were arrested.

An Owensboro, Kentucky, special speaks of an unusual excitement there, caused by the committal of a grave crime on Sarah Bonham, a white girl less than twelve years of age, by a man by the name of Morgan (colored). It was at one time thought he would be hung, but the better class of people succeeded in quieting the excited populace, and remanded the prisoner to jail. He is a mulato and served through the war in all the battles with the Confederate General Morgan.

Hon. Chauncey S. Payne, of Flint, Michigan, died yesterday, at the age of eighty-one.

Why Is It Done?

Why do millers order their paper bags printed to imitate White River bags. Something is wrong. Consumers cannot be too careful when they buy flour.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31, 1877.

SENATE.

The President *pro tempore* laid before the Senate a communication, signed by Associate Justices Clifford, Strong, Miller and Field, of the United States Supreme Court, announcing that they met yesterday, in pursuance of the Electoral Count bill, and selected Associate Justice Joseph P. Bradley, fifth associate justice upon the commission.

A concurrent resolution was adopted providing that no person shall be admitted to the south wing of the capitol during the counting of the votes for President and Vice President, except by tickets issued by the President *pro tem.* of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, such tickets to be distributed equally to each Senator and Representative by the Sergeants-at-Arms of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Frank Hereford, elected Senator from West Virginia, took the oath of office.

The Chair laid before the Senate the credentials of John R. McPherson, elected United States Senator from the State of New Jersey. Placed on file.

Mr. Anthony, from the Committee on Printing, reported back the resolution of Mr. Wright, submitted yesterday, to print 10,000 extra copies of the message of the President approving the Electoral bill, with an amendment to print 2,500 copies, instead of 10,000. Adopted, yeas 27, nays 14.

Mr. Merrimon said upon scrutinizing the resolution adopted this morning in regard to issuing tickets for admission to the counting to-morrow, he found it did not answer the purpose. Upon his motion the vote by which the resolution was agreed to was taken then reconsidered, and he submitted an amendment to strike out the latter portion of the resolution in regard to the distribution of tickets equally to each Senator and Representative, and insert in lieu thereof a provision that tickets as assigned by the Committee on Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be issued to Senators, Representatives and others, and distributed by the Sergeants-at-Arms of the Senate and House of Representatives. He said the only way to obviate a sinking fund for the liquidation of indebtedness due to the Government), and Mr. Thurman continued his remarks in favor of the Judiciary Committee's report.

Messrs. Bogy and Sherman favored the bill reported by the Judiciary Committee.

Pending the discussion, the Senate went into executive session, and soon adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the four associate justices designated as members of the judicial branch of the commission, announcing that they had selected Justice Joseph P. Bradley as the fifth member.

The Senate resolution for the appointment of one hundred men to serve as special police at the capitol during the counting of the electoral votes agreed to.

Mr. Cox, from the Committee on Rules, reported the following resolution:

Resolved, That during the counting of the votes for President and Vice President, no person besides those who now have the privilege of the floor of the House of Representatives, shall be admitted to that portion of the capitol set apart for the use of the House and its officers, except upon tickets to be issued by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, and tickets to be issued under this resolution shall be distributed under the direction of the Committee on Rules of the two Houses.

Mr. Cox explained that every member would be furnished each day with three tickets to the gallery of the House, to be distributed as he might see fit. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Hunton offered a resolution permitting members of the commission to sit as members of said commission during the sessions of the House. Adopted.

Mr. Garfield introduced a bill providing for a more thorough investigation of accidents on railroads. He said it referred to the terrible disaster which occurred in his district, a few weeks ago, and he asked that it be referred to the Committee on Railroads, with leave to report at any time. So ordered.

Consideration was then resumed of the resolution reported from the Judiciary Committee relative to the admission of James B. Belford as Representative from Colorado. Mr. Hurd, a member of the committee, spoke in favor of the minority report declaring Colorado not yet admitted as a State in the Union. Messrs. McCrary, Hale, Banks and Caulfield supported the resolution of the majority, and Mr. Southard opposed it.

The question was taken on the amendment of the minority, and it was rejected, and the resolution of the majority declaring that Colorado is a State and that Mr. Belford is entitled to a seat on the floor was adopted, and Mr. Belford was sworn in.

The Senate amendments to the joint resolution in regard to admission to the House and galleries during the counting of the electoral votes were concurred in.

The conference report on the bill for revising the statutes of the United States was agreed to.

Mr. Knott offered a resolution discharging E. W. Barnes from custody, he having delivered to the select committee, of which William R. Morrison is chairman, all the telegrams in his possession. Adopted.

The Speaker laid before the House the resignation of Frank Hereford as Representative from the Third district of West Virginia.

Mr. Waldron, from the Appropriation Committee, reported the Deficiency Appropriation bill. Made a special order for Saturday. It appropriates $502,713.

Recess until 7:30.

EVENING SESSION.

The regular order being demanded, the Speaker proceeded to call committees for reports.

Mr. Throckmorton, from the Committee on Pacific Railroads, moved to take from the calendar and make the special order for Tuesday next a bill regulating freights across the Omaha bridge on the line of the Pacific Railroad. So ordered.

Mr. Cox moved that the House proceed to business on the Speaker's desk.

Mr. Foster said that when the House took a recess this afternoon, it had been generally understood on his side of the Chamber that the evening session was to be devoted to the consideration of the Legislative Appropriation bill, and he gave notice that he would resist by every means in his power a motion to go to business on the table. He therefore moved that the House adjourn.

Mr. Page moved that when the House adjourn it be to meet on Friday next.

The Speaker stated that that motion was not in order, from which decision an appeal was taken, and several other dilatory motions made.

After one vote having been taken, the Speaker said that there was no occasion for alarm with reference to business on the table. There were two papers there which he would ask unanimous consent to lay before the House. The titles of the papers were read, as follows: "An authenticated copy of the act to declare and establish the appointment by the State of Florida of electors for President," and "Wilkinson Call, *et al.* against Charles Pearce *et al.*, records of proceedings in the nature of *quo warranto*."

Mr. Conger objected, and the Speaker then placed the papers in the petition box.

Mr. Cox then withdrew his motion to go to business on the Speaker's table, and the Speaker recognized Mr. Thompson to make the report on the Florida matter.

Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, called the Chair's attention to the fact that a motion to adjourn was pending, but the Speaker decided that the motion to go to the table having been withdrawn, all motions depending thereon would fall through.

Quite a discussion ensued as to the correctness of the decision, and a number of Republicans desired to appeal from the decision of the Chair, but the Speaker would not recognize them for that purpose, holding that Thompson was entitled to the floor and would not be taken from then floor.

After an excited controversy the Clerk commenced to read the report, but his voice was drowned by cries of "louder" and general confusion and disorder throughout the House, which was only quelled after many efforts by the Sergeant-at-Arms, who patrolled the House armed with his official mace.

A point of order having been raised that Mr. Thompson would have to read the report himself, he proceeded to do so from the Clerk's desk, amid much laughter and confusion. Finally the reading was taken up by the Clerk, and after some progress had been made, it was agreed by unanimous consent that further reading of the report be dispensed with, and that it be printed in the *Record*; also, that the minority report when ready be printed in the *Record*, and that both reports be stitched together.

The Speaker suggested that the resolution which closes the majority report be read, but Mr. Conger objected, remarking emphatically that members were tired; that their nerves were unstrung, and that they did not care to have it read.

The resolution is that at the late election the electors on the Democratic ticket were fairly and duly chosen as Presidential electors; that that is shown by the face of the returns and fully substantiated by evidence of the actual vote cast; that these electors, on the first Wednesday in December, cast their votes for Tilden for President and Hendricks for Vice President, and that they consequently are the legal votes of the State of Florida, and must be counted as such. The report is signed by Thompson, DeBolt, Walling and Hopkins.

A motion to adjourn was then made on the Republican side, so as to prevent a vote on the resolution, and was resisted on the Democratic side. At 10:35 the effort to get a vote on the resolution was abandoned, and the House adjourned.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Meeting of Electoral Commission

The Probable Mode of Procedure.

Florida to be Carefully Investigated,

THE RESULT IN GREAT DOUBT.

A Lively Row in the House

Another of Randall's Arbitrary Rulings

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31, 1877.

The Electoral Commission

Had two meetings to-day, Justice Clifford presiding. The time was occupied in determining the general rules to govern the deliberations and form of proceedure. It was determined, in view of the limited time in which the question must be settled, that speeches of counsel for either party should be limited to concise statements of fact and the argument sustaining them. It is possible that they will decide to have no argument made, but the cases presented to them put in the form of briefs. In regard to action in the specific cases which will come before them, no allusion was made, as it was agreed that when they came before them it would be the proper time to determine the principles which would govern their action. It is said that the commission has practically decided not to go back of the returns. They have taken no action on this subject, though it is evident from the views expressed that they propose simply to look into the returns so as to ascertain whether there was any palpable evidences of fraud. In the count of the vote to-morrow, the first objection will be in the case of Florida, where there are double returns. As to which of these to accept will be a question for the commission to decide. There is no doubt but that the commission will go into a thorough investigation of the Elgrida case, and from it deduce the general principle which will govern their action in all questions of returns made up by alleged canvassing boards. Prominent Democratic Senators admit that the Florida case will determine the action which may be expected on the other disputed States. The point at issue in the Florida case will be between the Stearns certificates and the electors in favor of Hayes, and the decision of the Supreme Court in directing the recount by which the Tilden electors have a majority, as it is the practice of authority, according to a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, to accept the action of the highest judicial tribunal of a State as the exponent of the law in the case. It is intimated that this will be the probable action of the electoral commission. The Legislature of Florida having passed a statute directing the Returning Board to recount the vote of the State under decision of the Supreme Court, which count, it is stated, has shown a majority for Tilden, it would be possible that the commission might make up a record of the State from this. It is also intimated if the commission may decide not to go back of the returns of the vote first declared, it will admit the Stearns certificates and electors, which would settle the case in favor of Hayes. The Florida case will, therefore, receive most careful consideration, and will doubtless consume several days before disposed of. In regard to the two ineligible votes of Pennsylvania, should there be objection, it would require the vote of both Houses to reject it, which it is not likely to receive. Both parties are engaged in preparing information upon which to make an attack upon the votes of Virginia and Louisiana, as other States. The fact is, that these efforts would be of no account, unless where there are double returns. The Democrats are making much complaint in Louisiana, and it is not impossible, in view of recent facts shown in the action of the Returning Board, that the State will be left out, in which case the election there would be no election by the electoral college. Notwithstanding the perplexities which surround the electoral vote of some of the States, the Republicans feel assured that a fair investigation of the disputed States will give them to Hayes and secure his election.

A Row in the House.

At the session of the House to-night, nearly two hours were expended by the Republicans in an attempt to prevent the reception of a copy of the *quo warranto* proceedings in the Florida case under a motion to go to the Speaker's table. The motion being withdrawn while the motion to adjourn was pending, the Speaker ruled that the motion to adjourn fell, with the latter motion, and gave the floor to Thompson, of Massachusetts, who presented the majority report of the Florida committee. The wildest disorder followed, all the Republicans on the floor rising to their feet and drowning Thompson's voice and the Speaker's gavel with shouts and protests against this arbitrary and unprecedented ruling. After nearly twenty minutes spent in riotous wrangling, the Speaker ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to carry his mace through the aisles on the Republican side, and the tumult subsided, the Republicans yielding to the refusal of the Speaker to entertain a point of order on the appeal or other question of the highest privilege. An agreement was at last reached, and both reports were ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31, 1877.

OREGON ELECTORAL INVESTIGATION.

Colonel William D. Hamilton testified before the Committee on Privileges and Elections this morning that he is acquainted with J. H. N. Patrick, of Omaha, Neb.; had some telegraphic communication with Patrick in November and December last; did not know whether or not he received a dispatch in cipher from Salem, Oregon, on the 5th of December last; such a dispatch addressed to witness was produced, and he was asked to translate it; he replied that he was unable, as the cipher belonged to Patrick and he had no copy; don't know anything about depositing $7,300 in the London and San Francisco Bank in December last.

C. B. Bellinger, of Portland, Oregon, was recalled, and testified that all he knew about the deposit of the $7,300 was that he was notified that money was deposited by New York parties to be used to defray any legal expenses in connection with the Watts case; witness received a package from New York by express about December 5th.

The following dispatch was offered in evidence by Senator Mitchell:

"PORTLAND, OREGON, November 23, 1876.—*To General Wade Hampton, Columbia, S. C.*: How many Democratic electors on official count? Answer paid.

[Signed] "C. B. BELLINGER,
Chairman Democratic Committee."

THE LOUISIANA INQUEST.

The Committee on the Powers, Privileges and Duties of the House in Counting the Electoral Vote called John F. Pickett, who produced the following letter:

NEW ORLEANS, LA., November 20, 1876.
To John H. Maddox, New Orleans, La.:

MY DEAR SIR—You fully understand the situation. Can you not advise with me relative thereto? Respectfully,

[Signed] MADISON WELLS.

Witness began a narrative of the circumstances under which he received the letter, but was interrupted on the ground that he was reciting what had been told him by others.

Maddox was called and identified the letter as written by Wells; knew Wells and Anderson for twenty-five years. In conversation with Wells he said he had confidence in witness, and instructed him what to do; had frequent interviews with Wells and Anderson; conversed with Wells in this city on the subject matter, but declined to disclose it. Several papers were shown witness, which he would not as genuine, including correspondence on his part. The following memorandum was read:

"For one million dollars the poll of Louisiana can be secured to Tilden and Hendricks. Manipulation must be done by me, and as far as possible to protect members of Returning Board who may favor such result, it may be necessary to elect two or three members of the board to reach what we want. Details agreed upon; money to be paid in instalments, say one-fourth when the fifth member is elected, one-fourth when one member resigns and another is elected in his place, and one-fourth when another resigns, with another elected in his place, the balance of one-fourth to be paid when certificates are given."

Question by Mr. Field—Was that the proposition that Governor Wells wanted you to carry out?

Answer—I decline to answer. Mr. Field showed witness a telegram signed by J. F. Pickett, and addressed to John Hancock, meaning Maddox, as follows:

"Telegraphed as directed. Danger my interest; think of the interest of forty millions of people."

Q—Is that the answer which came to you?

A.—I decline to answer. By Mr. Marsh—Had you an interview with the Secretary of War? A.—I decline to answer. Witness having been asked whether he would now answer questions propounded, replied that he would not. Mr. Sparks—Do you know the consequences of not answering? A.—I do. Mr. Marsh suggested that witness have one hour to consider whether he would answer the questions. The witness said it was useless to waste time, as he would decline to answer at the end of the hour. Witness was informed that he would be required to answer at that time. He replied that though he would not answer, he would return to the room.

The Select Committee on the Privileges of the House had before it to-day two witnesses, who gave testimony of a highly important character affecting the integrity of the Louisiana Returning Board. Following is a report of the most important of the testimony: John T. Pickett, sworn and examined, said: I am an attorney-at-law resident of Washington, D. C. Question—Have you in your possession a letter from Mr. Wells, of the Louisiana Returning Board? Answer—I have. Q.—Will you produce it? A.—[Handing it to Mr. Field] It is what purports to be his handwriting. I am not familiar with it. Read letter as follows: NEW ORLEANS, November 20, 1876. [Names cut out.] NEW ORLEANS, LA. *My Dear Sir:* You fully understand the situation. Can you not advise with me relative thereto? Yours, very truly,

[Signed] J. MADISON WELLS.

Q.—State the circumstance of your receiving this letter and what was said in relation to it. Witness—On Thursday preceding the last Sunday of November, this gentleman, with whom I have been acquainted for more than a quarter of a century, came to my office, he having just arrived from Louisiana, where I had known him quite intimately a quarter of a century ago, and gave me a full history of the state of affairs there arising out of the late Presidential election. He said he had been spending a week or ten days in New Orleans. This man then delivered to me that letter. He said he had been some days in New Orleans. I knew that, for I had notified my Democratic friends down there of the fact of his having gone thither, and that he was an exceedingly dangerous man to our people, meaning the Democratic party, inasmuch as he had been a resident of New Orleans in former years, and had held high position there socially and otherwise, and they might not have known he was now a member of the Republican party and a commissary, as I believed, from the Government here teaching how the vote of Louisiana should be counted, and stating that from my personal friendship for him of long standing, I hoped if there should be a disturbance there, as had occurred on previous occasions, no harm should befall him. By some means he obtained information of my having written such a letter, and when he came here to Washington he came to see my office and stated to me fully the condition of affairs in Louisiana. He said he believed, and that others believed, that Louisiana was democratic by from 40,000 to 50,000 majority, but that money would decide how her electoral vote would be thrown; that his sympathies were with the South and with what was right, and that he had in his possession which he exhibited to me sealed, a letter purporting to be from Mr. Wells to Senator West. My informant said: I have read this letter, and know it. I cannot open it, of course, nor would I have you do it if you would; but it informs Senator West that the Democrats have put up a million of money to carry the vote [meaning the Republicans] would need a million down there to settle this thing to counteract that." He said he did not feel disposed to deliver the letter, that it was not obligatory on him, and that if he followed the wishes of his heart and the decrees of his judgment, he would endeavor to have these gentlemen supplied with what they needed, so as to determine the result, and he asked me whether I had any objection to my speaking to him. I said professionally I cannot, but in view of the magnitude of the interests at stake I have no hesitation to do all that is in my little power. After a recess of an hour or two long conversations, extending over a portion of next day, and after some preliminary reduction of the points to writing, I repaired to New York and there had interviews with several gentlemen eminent in the Democratic party, to whom I fully related all these antecedent facts. I had then returned to this city, and was ready produced to the committee, and in order to conceal the name of party to whom it was addressed, I cut it out, but I have it with me perfect identification. I exchanged with him certain preliminaries. Q.—Did you see the letter to Senator West? A.—I saw a sealed letter; I did not see its contents, but this gentleman would have communicated to me its contents, the chief portion of which was that the Democrats had to pay a million of dollars, and that the Republicans wanted a million to counteract that fact. The gentleman with whom you had this conversation is, you say, within this building? A.—He was here this morning. I came up to the capitol with him.

By Mr. Lawrence—Who is this gentleman? A.—His full name is Joseph Harris Maddox, and he is, I believe, in any other paper than this letter purporting to be from Wells? A.—Nothing in the shape of a letter or credential. We made some notes as to the basis upon which he proposed I should endeavor to negotiate the affair. Q.—What were you to negotiate? A.—I was to negotiate money enough to pay Governor Wells and his Returning Board to do what turning Board to do what I considered right and proper; that is to say, to determine the State for Tilden. He informed me that they would give it for Tilden, as they were paid to give it for Tilden, under which circumstances I felt perfectly justifiable in doing all in my power. I might regret it ever hereafter to attain that great end. The gentleman with whom I endeavored to make the negotiation, I am happy to state, informed me that our proposition had been accepted, if he had been in my place and I in his, he would have done precisely what I did. Q.—The thing which he proposed to you was that you would make up the necessary negotiation to get Wells and the Returning Board to give the State to Tilden. Is that it? A.—He informed me that the State was Democratic by from 8,000 to 12,000 votes, but that it would be counted for Hayes by the Returning Board. He knew its complexion; he had been acquainted with Wells nearly eighty-four; he said, and with Anderson nearly as long. To get them to do what was right, I assented to see these parties at his instance, and to endeavor to see if the matter could not be made. Q.—In other words, the object was to raise money? A.—Most undoubtedly—not for myself, but for this great object. Q.—And the money was to be given by Maddox? A.—No, not to be given to him. A stakeholder would have been chosen. Q.—Who was to be the stakeholder? A.—That was to be determined by those who would supply the necessary funds. Q.—Whom did you see in New York. A.—I endeavored first to see Mr. Hewitt; he was out of town that day (Sunday), but a note was sent in the evening that he had returned, and I did see him. Previously I saw Mr. John Morrissey, with whom I had no political acquaintance. I stated to these facts to him. He said that while he had no particular objections in paying a man to do what was right, he did not feel that he was in that necessity. He said that he would buy these fellows as readily as he would buy pigs, or to words that effect, in which I coincided with him, in the interest of 40,000,000 people, but he said that we all knew that Tilden was elected, and that he had just received or the public had just received information from Oregon which made it unnecessary to resort to any such measure; that was about the purport of my conversation with Morrissey. Q.—Did you receive any money from him? A.—Not any. Q.—Did you meet Mr. Hewitt? A.—I did. I saw Mr. Hewitt, and went over the whole story to him, to which he listened very patiently and kindly. I told him that while I had been an attorney at-law for a great many years, and for ten or twelve years in Washington, I had never used a dollar corruptly and never expected to, but that in this case I felt the approval of my consciences, upheld by duty, in presenting the thing to him, and he said that were our positions reversed, he would have done precisely the same. He said that this was the third proposition of this kind that had been made to him on the part of the Returning Board of Louisiana, but that mine appeared the most plausible and authentic, and that under no circumstances would they entertain any such proposition; that if we bought them now we would have to buy them over hereafter; that if the country was going into civil war, we might as well let it come and be done with it, but that he had no apprehension of any such result, and that the country knew Tilden was elected; that was about the purport of our conversation. Q.—Was anything said between you and Maddox as to how much of the money he should have? A.—There was nothing said as to how much he should have, and it was his affair; he said that if I could succeed in making the negotiation, he should see that I should be very handsomely compensated; that I should have my proper share. I said I would take the money, for I would regard it as "spoiling the Egyptians," and would distribute it among the widows and orphans of the South.

FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION.

The tripartite commission assembled at noon in the Supreme Court room and organized. The special oath of office was administered to Justice Clifford by Mr. Middleton, Clerk of the Court, and Justice Clifford, who by the Electoral act, is presiding officer of the commission, then administered the oath to the other Supreme members. James H. McKenny was then appointed temporary clerk to the commission, and it was ordered that the proceedings of the commission, except those showing cause for its sessions being stated, shall be held confidential until otherwise ordered. After a brief session the commission adjourned until four P. M.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate confirmed the following nominations: G. W. Patton, United States Marshal for West Virginia; Allen T. Wykoff, Pension Agent, Columbus, O.

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The President nominated the following postmasters: C. E. Yost, Omaha, Neb.; Madison M. Harley, New Albany, Ind.; William E. Hobson, Bowling Green, Ky.; Irving W. Cand, Marion City, Iowa.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS.

Speaker Randall having decided to appoint two Democrats as tellers in counting the electoral vote, the President *pro tem.* of the Senate will appoint two Republican tellers on the part of that body. The President *pro tem.*, desired that one Democrat and one Republican be appointed from each House, but in this the Speaker did not acquiesce.

COUNSEL FOR BOTH PARTIES.

The Republican National Committee today decided to engage as leading counsel before the Electoral Commission William M. Evarts and E. W. Stoughton, of New York, and Stanley Matthews and S. S. Shellabarger, of Ohio. All these gentlemen are here and have entered upon the preparation of their case except Stoughton, who is expected here to-morrow. They are authorized to associate with themselves any others who are familiar with the Louisiana and Florida cases. The Democrats have as counsel Lyman Trumbull, of Illinois, Matt Carpenter, of Wisconsin, Jeremiah Black, of Pennsylvania, and Ashbel Green, of New York.

MEXICO PAYS.

The first instalment of $300,000 due by Mexico to the United States under the convention of July 4, 1868, for the settlement of claims, has to-day been paid to the Secretary of State by the Mexican Minister.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Eastern Question.

RUSSIA'S NEW AND PECULIAR PLAN.

LONDON, February 1.—A Berlin dispatch to the *Times* says: After much hesitation, Russia seems to have decided upon a peculiar plan. The present state of things, which is neither peace nor war, is to be indefinitely prolonged. Russia does not care to encounter the Turkish troops in their present condition, nor does she wish to abandon the campaign altogether. She trusts she can support the strain of prolonged mobilization better than Turkey; she will, therefore, keep troops on the frontier, thus compelling Turkey to do the same. If Turkey follows Russia's example, it is expected that before many months the people will demand peace at any price, because of the consequent financial collapse. Russia will attempt to negotiate directly with Turkey, and if successful in doing this decides to anticipate Russian attack, the Russians are sufficiently confident of the result, as they would then fight in their own country, and in order to reduce their pressure on Turkey, will probably cross the Pruth—if not immediately, at least at a later stage. It is not likely that Russia will attempt the Danube until Turkey's fighting spirit is sensibly diminished by delay. With a view to these contingencies, the Russian army is continually increasing, while all of the Southern fortresses are being made ready for defense. It is because of these circumstances that Turkey thinks it necessary to make these concessions and participation in a possible resumption of hostilities.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* regrets that Russia having made fresh but unsuccessful attempts to raise a loan in Amsterdam and Germany, will be obliged to have recourse to an increased her floating debt, and issue treasury bonds. Russia is employing her time well. The war preparations are continued with energy, and on a larger scale than before. Nothing has been done hitherto which would indicate that the beginning of a war is very close at hand, but the preparations leave no doubt as to a determination to follow up the war if it breaks out. The reserve observed hitherto and the feverish activity in arming may be taken as a tolerably sure sign that the peace party is not quite so confident, and that under no circumstances would they entertain any such proposition; that if we bought them now we would have to buy them over hereafter; that if the country was going into civil war, we might as well let it come and be done with it, but that he had no apprehension of any such result, and that the country knew Tilden was elected; that was about the purport of our conversation. Q.—Was anything said between you and Maddox as to how much of the money he should have? A.—There was nothing said as to how much he should have, and it was his affair; he said that if I could succeed in making the negotiation, he should see that I should be very handsomely compensated; that I should have my proper share. I said I would take the money, for I would regard it as "spoiling the Egyptians," and would distribute it among the widows and orphans of the South.

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FOREIGN NOTES.

The steamships The Queen and California, from New York, have arrived out.

POLITICAL.

Asa S. Kindall, of West Swansea, was yesterday nominated for Governor by the Prohibitionists of New Hampshire.

Horace Davis, Republican Congressman-elect from the San Francisco district, whose seat Congressman Piper contests on the question of contesting on the ground of fraudulent voting, makes a statement claiming that a clerical omission to enter the names of voters on the great register is considered by the best legal authorities not to affect the validity of the election; that as to the concerns votes cast by non residents, the circumstances of the case warrant the belief that such votes will be found as largely Democratic as Republican.

The anti-Plumb caucus of the Kansas Legislature, which was in session most of Tuesday night, had a meeting yesterday morning, and after numerous ballots D. P. Law, of Fort Scott, was declared the anti-Plumb candidate. The joint convention met at twelve M., and the sixteenth ballot resulted in 59 votes for Plumb to 63 votes for Law, and Plumb was declared elected. Both Houses then adjourned till February 6th. Colonel Hanback, a printer by trade, formerly published the Emporia *News*, went to Kansas from Zanesville, O., when nineteen years of age. He is now president of a national bank at Emporia, and is reported to be worth $200,000, which he has made by speculation and the practice of law.

The New Orleans State House authorities claim that Littlefield's statement before the Congressional committee on Tuesday, that he was requested by Wells to transpose one hundred and seventy eight votes in Vernon parish in order to elect Hunter Judge, Andrews District Attorney and Kelso State Senator, is false on the face of it. Hunter and Andrews were elected without the transposition by the rejection of three polls ordered rejected. Kelso was not returned elected, Texada, Democrat, being returned elected one hundred and thirty-three votes over Kelso. The transposition affected no result, State, parish or district. Littlefield held office under Kellogg as bay inspector, was removed by Antoine, Acting Governor, to make way for Kenner, of the Returning Board, and Kellogg refused to reinstate him.

Continental Life Insurance Company.

NEW YORK, January 31.—The examination concerning the receivership of the Continental Life Insurance Company was continued to-day before W. A. A. Butler, referee. This examination is nominally to see if the receiver cannot hasten his settlement, but is resisted as being an effort to remove him. He has been ordered to largely increase his bond. The application is on behalf of two policyholders, but many others are represented by counsel. John A. Finch, special insurance commissioner of Indiana, appeared on behalf of over one hundred policyholders of Indiana, and some of Ohio and Illinois. The taking of evidence was adjourned till Monday.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Indications for To-Day.—In Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and Lake region, rising barometer after a temporary fall along the lower lakes, southerly to westerly winds, clear or partly cloudy weather and stationary or lower temperature.

The Coroner's jury in the case of the Brooklyn Theater calamity gave their verdict yesterday. They say that of the 218 victims of the fire, two were burned to death and the remainder were suffocated. There are numerous suggestions for the prevention of fires in future.

Judge Lawrence, of New York, has denied the application of Rufus Hatch and other stockholders of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad Company for a mandamus to the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company to give access to the transfer books of the railroad, the object being to communicate with the rest of the stockholders as to alleged mismanagement

The Commercial.

Official Paper of Allegheny County

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1877.

THE Presidential game of seven-up begins to-day.

THE Baltimore *Gazette* speaks of Judge DAVIS as a Republican of the LINCOLN school, and refuses to count him as a Democrat.

THE New Hampshire Prohibitionists are again at their brevet Democratic tricks, by nominating candidates for Governor and State offices.

WHY does the Senate committee delay to summon TILDEN before it to cipher out the meaning of that cipher "Gabblo" dispatch received by him from Oregon?

TILDEN and his friends have suddenly discovered great qualities in Senator CONKLING and are praising him warmly. The Republican Senate cancelled him just in time.

WHAT has the COMMERCIAL to say about Grant's message on the Compromise bill?—*Post.*

The road to hell is said to be paved with good intentions.

THE Democrats of Wyanet, Ill., have been made to believe by their leaders that SAMUEL J. TILDEN served as a general throughout the war, and that he was noted for his bravery and loyalty. There is nothing too gross or silly, it seems, for the average Democrat's faith.

THE wholesale merchants of New York, dealing principally with the West and South, report heavy orders in the past few days, and are confident of excellent business in the next two months. Many buyers are on the way from the South to New York, and some have already arrive l.

IT IS the general conviction at Washington that the Republicans made a very narrow escape from treachery in CONKLING's case. There was a strong pressure to put him on the commission, which was successfully resisted, and since then some of his private sayings, hostile to HAYES' inauguration, have begun to leak out.

ONE of Judge DAVIS' most intimate personal and political friends writes, on his own responsibility, advising the *Tribune* that "Judge DAVIS was not elected as a Democrat to the Senate, but as DAVID DAVIS, an old Whig and Liberal Republican. He could not become a Democrat if he were to try, and it is very certain he will not try."

EVERY blunder has its compensations. It is certainly a great consolation to know that, in selecting the commission to pass on the Presidential question, the House snubbed DAVID DUDLEY FIELD and that the Senate would have nothing to do with CONKLING. These two truckl ers have found out, at last, that neither party has any confidence in them.

AMONG the House Democrats chosen to sit on the Presidential Commission, is Judge ABBOTT, of Massachusetts, who was not elected to Congress by the people, but was counted in, on a contested election, by a party vote in the House. It is in perfect keeping with all the rest to put a counted-in member upon a commission to count in the Democratic candidate for President.

ACCORDING to the Cincinnati *Enquirer* there are but "three rays of hope" of the inauguration of TILDEN under the compromise bill. The first is that Senator EDMUNDS, if a member of the commission, "will rise above partisan narrowness." The second is in "the possible impartiality of Mr. HOAR," and the third is "that the four Supreme justices will select as the fifteenth member of the commission a man capable of fairness." In other words, the sole hope of Democratic success is based upon the possible treachery of some one of three Republicans.

A PROJECT for the extension of the "Relief Oil Pipe Line" from Millerstown, Butler county, to Buffalo, is on foot. The pipes will be laid through Clarion county and intervening counties, via. Bradford, and the preparatory work of surveying and securing rights of way is progressing favorably. As soon as this is completed the pipes will be laid and the erection of a large refinery in Buffalo will be commenced at once. It is expected that oil will be running to that city by the first of July—unless it should turn out that the project is a game of bluff.

THE latest English journals are filled with complaints regarding the immense injury which has been inflicted on the agricultural community of that country by the heavy rains with which it has been and is still being deluged. Extending, as they do, over thousands of acres of cultivated land, the floods have washed, or will have washed when subsidence takes place, out all the seed that was put in prior to the bad weather. The laboring population suffer to an incalculable extent; since, besides having to remain, as a large proportion have, in habitations half submerged, they are deprived for the time being of the means of earning a livelihood.

THE House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, effectually disposed of the Capital Removal bill, on Tuesday last, by indefinitely postponing its further consideration. The vote against it was overwhelming; and Philadelphia having thus been rebuked for instituting this useless agitation, it is to be hoped that the politicians will accept it as final, and that the House, which has been pestered with this folly for weeks, will now address itself earnestly to the real work of legislation before it. Four weeks of the session have now elapsed, and the House, up to Tuesday last, had not passed a single bill. If the members of that body will listen to the word of exhortation, we will advise them, briefly, to stop gabbling and go to work.

IT IS strange to see what odd motives are attributed to public men, and to what strange influences they are supposed to be subject. Here, for instance, is a Washington correspondent who says of Judge BRADLEY, as a proposed member of the Presidential Commission, that he was appointed to the bench as a Republican, but that his State "went for TILDEN by so great a majority that he will be evenly balanced in the influences which environ him." Now what, in the name of common sense, has the fact that New Jersey went for TILDEN got to do with Judge BRADLEY's judicial or political convictions? Is a Supreme Judge supposed to hold his ideas subject to the popular will, and to be ready to change whenever his State changes?

IT turns out that the Khedive has not by any means relinquished his foothold in Abyssinia, as was reported some time ago. It appears that there was actually but three days' fighting by the 15,000 Egyptian troops engaged there, which ended in the retreat of the Abyssinians and the permanent occupation of the ground gained by the Egyptians. Instead of being crushed by an overwhelming defeat the latter lost but 2,000 men, while that of the former was more than double. The latter sued for peace, and it is understood a treaty of amity has been signed between the belligerents. This puts an entirely new face upon the matter. There is probably no reason to justify any outside interference with the Khedive's aims for the annexation of Abyssinia to Egypt. It could hardly fail to prove beneficial to its inhabitants, who are now subject to perpetual war, growing out of the feuds between rival chiefs.

THE New York *Bulletin*, which has always favored the earliest possible resumption of specie payments, ridicules the idea attributed to the President by Washington correspondents, that resumption may with safety be undertaken by the Government on and after the fourth of March next. We believe, for one, that the President has no intention to send in a message to Congress on the subject, as has been indicated, and we believe further that, if he does, Congress will fail to put any measure into operation looking to such a result.

The *Bulletin* argues that the turning of the balance of foreign trade in our favor does not help forward in any way the work of resumption. The trade balance for the past year is admitted to have been in our favor by about $100,000,000 to $120,000,000; but it by no means follows that we are that much richer in gold. The difference between our exports and imports is, indeed, about one hundred millions; but out of this balance the sum of $80,000,000, or more, of interest has to be annually paid to foreign holders of our securities, and the remainder of the hundred millions is absorbed by the reflux movement of securities from Europe that has been in operation for many months past to an extent wholly unprecedented. The settlement of these two items has swallowed up all these huge surpluses of exports, without leaving a dollar to be accumulated for the day of resumption. The stock of gold now in the hands of the Government has not been as low for years as it is to-day.

The President, it is alleged, is of opinion that foreign capital is just now floating to this country for investment, and that the placing of the four and a half per cent. loan is evidence of this; but the *Bulletin* alleges that in lieu of taking some $100,000,000 a year of our securities, as was their former wont, European investors have almost entirely ceased subscriptions for American bonds, so much have they taken to heart the lessons of 1873. They are, in fact, sending them back in very large amounts, and from the best information obtainable from bankers engaged in these operations, it is a safe estimate that the amount of securities sent home, during 1876, exceeded the sum exported by about $50,000,000. But even if this were not the case the new four and a half per cent. bonds merely take the place of the old bonds held abroad; they are paid for in old bonds and are not the investment of new capital.

The low premium on gold, which now prevails, is a much stronger argument for resumption than any of the other arguments used by, or for the President; but it proves only that the premium may gradually decline until it fades out altogether. Such a result would bring about resumption, of itself; but that is a result which no legislation can hasten or anticipate to a certainty. The only way in which resumption can be brought about successfully and safely is to leave it to the laws of trade. It will come of itself, if we have but the patience to wait for it; and when it comes, it will happen so quietly that no one will be surprised at it, and under such circumstances that no one will be tempted to try and derive an immediate advantage from it. When no one is particularly anxious about it, and no one is scheming either to help or prevent it, resumption may become an established fact; while an attempt to fix a day for it will be certain to create a jar and excite the spirit of speculation. If the Treasury feels itself able to pay gold for legal tender notes on the 5th of March next, or at any other time, without creating a disastrous run upon itself, let it quietly and without previous notice try the experiment; and if not let it leave it alone.

IN ITS issue of yesterday the Democratic organ in this city makes the argument of a rogue in favor of rascality. Speaking of the proposed scaling down of the debts of several of the Southern States, that paper indorses the proposition as a "humane and just arrangement," and then very naturally proceeds to indulge in a rhetorical mud-bath. It does not attempt to deny the ability of the States in question to pay the debts they have incurred, for that cannot be successfully denied. A tax of six mills on the dollar would discharge the interest on the entire obligation. The whole debt of the defaulting States, including recognized and unrecognized claims, is about $200,000,000, the interest on which at six per cent. would be $12,000,000. The population of these States, last year, was 2,202,000,000 pounds, and a tax of half a cent a pound on this single staple would nearly if not quite meet the whole interest. The burden, it is true, is not equally divided among the States, but in Virginia, which constitutes one of the three States—North Carolina and Tennessee being the others—with whom the commission of bankers is to treat, a State tax of ten mills on the dollar would pay the interest on the State debt. To the North Carolina Legislature the commission proposed terms which would require the rate of taxation to be raised only from six to seven and a half mills on the dollar, but the Legislature rejected it. The case of Tennessee is still worse for dishonor. From all appearances the Legislature of that State will scale down the debt forty per cent., thus reducing it about thirteen million dollars. If this is done the present rate of taxation, four mills on the dollar, will pay the annual interest. If not done, the rate of interest must be raised, but even four per cent. is so burdensome that those chivalric Tennesseeans, who are so sensitive to the discomforts and inconvenience of working to pay their debts, and so callous to the disgrace of stealing borrowed money through their non-inability as a State, are talking of reducing the rate per cent. of taxation still lower. And yet the *Post* accesses these shameless repudiators as "an honest people struggling to pay doubtful debts." In every one of the defaulting States the obligations can be met with comparative ease, and the Brooklyn *Times* hits the mark in characterizing the real trouble as "a Southern hard-headedness on the subject, combined with the exaltation to power of men of indifferent morals."

THE Chicago *Inter-Ocean* having called attention to the fact that we have not imported a pound of steel rails since September, 1875, and that the price per ton has been reduced from $225 to $50 within the last ten years, both of these excellent results being the fruits of our wise policy of protection to home industry, the *Times* undertakes to account for the fact by saying that only one hundred and sixty-eight miles of new road were built in Illinois in 1876, and that the discontinued importation is the result of a falling off in the demand for steel rails does not depend exclusively upon the laying of new tracks. They are wanted in the repair of old tracks, and many companies have, within the past two years, substituted new steel rails in the place of old iron rails either worn out or thrown aside as unreliable. The *Inter-Ocean* says:

> A number of our railway companies have seized the opportunity of very cheap steel rails to take up their partly or wholly worn tracks of iron in order to relay them with the more durable material. Such enterprise has increase the demand for rails beyond what it was prior to the panic. More steel rails were consumed in 1875 than in any previous year of railroad construction in this country. This may be surprising news to the *Times*, which knows precious little about the tariff question at best; yet it is true. The imports entered into home consumption in the fiscal year 1873 amounted to 312,984,307 pounds, and the domestic production in the calendar year 1873 to 258,030,000 pounds—a total of 571,014,307 pounds. For the fiscal year 1874 the imports entered into home consumption were 292,066,593 pounds, and the domestic manufacture for the calendar year was 298,888,000 pounds—an aggregate of 590,954,593 pounds. During the fiscal year 1875 the imports entered into home consumption were 97,850,992 pounds, and the domestic make during the calendar year was 581,726,000 pounds—a sum of 679,576,902. Nearly all the domestic rails were made upon orders, and were consumed within this country. Here, then, we see the demand for steel rails constantly rising, being more than 100,000,000 pounds greater in 1875 than it was in 1873. Why, the domestic production, single and alone, amounted to 10,711,693 pounds more in 1875 than the combined imports and home production in 1873. In the face of such facts, what audacity and foolishness to talk about a failure of demand, and to attribute the decline in prices and importations to that imaginary cause as growing out of the railroad revulsion.

OREGON looks forward to a prosperous year. Most of its population dwell in the Willamette Valley, a region that has never suffered from drought, the climate being excessively moist. Wheat is a sure crop, and in quality it is not surpassed in the world. The export last year was 311,000 tons, worth $11,846,000. Canned salmon, another important product for distant markets, was sent away in 1876 to the number of 480,000 cases. Preparations have been made for a large increase of the business; twelve new canning establishments are to be added this spring to the seventeen old ones, and they will have an aggregate capacity to can 870,000 cases, which will require more than 50,000,000 pounds of fish, live weight. The Columbia is now the great salmon-fishing river of the world. The Oregon *Centennial Circular* says: "With a population of 40,000 men, her export of wheat equals one-seventh of the total export of the United States. Such a State is not a poor State to live in." Especially, it might be added, in Presidential years, when a millionaire is running for President, and is willing to give from $15,000 to $30,000 for an electoral vote.

THE New York *Times* denounces the National Capitol Life Insurance Company, in which the New Jersey Mutual has reinsured the policies of its duped customers, as being more rotten than the New Jersey Mutual, and tainted at every stage of its history with evidence of fraud. It states that this Washington company came into existence originally under a charter unwisely granted by Congress, with a capital that was never more than nominal. The few dupes it contrived to obtain were in due time handed over to a Pennsylvania company, and the charter became the property of the chief officer of a bankrupt Connecticut company—the American National Life of New Haven. This being the case, the holders of policies in the New Jersey Mutual are in a very bad fix, indeed. The New Jersey company is insolvent, and the company to which it transfers its policies has not the standing necessary to secure the confidence of the parties insured. Besides this, it is now said that other large life insurance companies are shivering in the wind and that new failures may be looked for daily.

"IT DOES not seem necessary," says a contemporary, "to impeach the Republicanism of every member of the party who favors the arbitration bill. The party that is not large enough to be tolerant will soon be too small to be of any consequence." All true; but as no one *has* impeached the Republicanism of any of those who voted for the arbitration bill, we do not see the force of the suggestion. It is not their Republicanism which is questioned, but their backbone. The principles professed by these men are all right; but they have a miserable way of manifesting their devotion to them. What is the use of a man's Republicanism if he has not the pluck to stand up to it? The Republican who withers and shrinks into himself when his opponents bluster and threaten, is made of poor stuff and becomes an object of supreme contempt. If the Republicans of the Senate had, from the first, stood up firmly and faithfully, there never would have been any need for the arbitration bill.

THE business depression in Europe is even greater than that which has affected this country. The London Clearing House last year did only $7,219,625,000 of business, a falling off of $898,865,000, or 11.1 per cent., and the profits of seven of the principal joint stock banks, as published in the *Economist*, were only 10¼ per cent., against 13.43 per cent. in 1875. The London correspondent of the New York *World* says he never saw the time when the domestic trade of England was in so depressed and wretched a state as it is now. Go where you will, and ask whom you will, and you will hear the same thing. "There is nothing doing; we think ourselves lucky if we can pay our expenses." In France, too, *L'Industrie* states there has been on about one hundred securities a depreciation of $75,135,400.

A CASE is before the Iowa courts, involving the novel question whether a mortgage can be given on a thing not in existence. A man took a mortgage on a crop of corn the year before it was to be planted. The corn was in due time planted, and, when growing, was levied upon to pay the debt of another party, who claims that the mortgage was no lien on the crop. It is a well established principle that a mortgage may be given upon a growing crop, or the prospective increase of the growth of wool on sheep, or the foal of an animal, but as to a thing which has no existence in fact, is a question which has not heretofore arisen in the jurisprudence of this country. A similar case arose once in the English House of Lords, which is the only known precedent on record.

PERSONAL.

The Grand Duke Alexis will visit Washington shortly and make an extended tour of the country while the fleet remains in these waters.

Creditable. In a Cambridge, Massachusetts, evening school, is a man of fifty-seven learning to read, and one of forty working at arithmetic.

Joining troubles. A rumor comes from Spain that the young Prince Imperial of France is to be affianced to one of Isabella's four daughters, and that the ex-Empress Eugenie is about to visit the ex-Queen of Spain to talk over the event.

It is understood that if Trickett, the Australian champion rower, can be induced to visit the United States the coming summer, several prominent English professional oarsmen will also make a trip to our shores. The Englishmen are very anxious to beat the colonist who carried off the championship from the best oarsmen England possessed.

Emerson was the subject of a recent lecture in Chicago, by Professor Mills, of Boston. It was very eulogistic. Plato, Pythagoras, Confucius and other lesser lights were unceremoniously relegated to a back seat, and Mr. Emerson was proclaimed as the master spirit of the nineteenth century and beacon light to future ages, all of which may possibly be correct.

One Dr. Bradus, of Greenville, South Carolina, has been devoting himself to the study of Alexander H. Stephens as a historical problem, and has come to the conclusion that the old gentleman is an anachronism. He says "if Stephens had lived in the middle ages, the fact that so frail a man can speak two hours and hold a great audience would have stamped him a saint, preternaturally supported, and with more than human claims to attention and belief."

Our country is getting a reputation as a place where divorce is made easy. A Paris paper states that "it is announced that M. de Germiny, his wife and children, are about to depart for America. The married pair are going to be naturalized as Americans and then be divorced; after which Mme. de Germiny will return to France with her children and resume her maiden name." This will be a new and extraordinary manifestation of Germiny in America.

A singular case is that of Frank Hadley, an Indiana druggist, a young man in the enjoyment of perfect health, who without any thing to warn him of the affliction, was stricken deaf and dumb a week ago on Monday. Since that time he has not been able to articulate a word, or hear the loudest sound. He continues in his usual health, eats heartily, and communicates by writing that, with the exception of his speech and hearing, he is as well as he ever was in his life.

The New York *World* charges that Mark Twain is an unreconstructed rebel. In June, 1861, it is said that he joined the Ralls County Rangers, a regiment of the Missouri State militia, under General Thomas Harris. It was camped near Florida, without tents, arms or stores, and naturally soon broke camp. Mark going West. The Ralls County Rangers appear to have been a Confederate organization, since Samuel Bowen, another river pilot, who enlisted at the same time, was "captured at Hannibal and detailed to saw wood for the Federal Colonel, David Moore."

NEW YORK FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

Grand Society Entertainments in the Metropolis—Costumes for Evening Wear at Balls and the Opera—Fashionable Fabrics—Art in Dress—About the Basties, and What Shall be Done With Them.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, January 28, 1877.

About the fifteenth of January, the New York season is said to reach its height, then and from that time until the middle of February, everybody is engulfed, swallowed whole, absorbed in the on-rushing tide of social life which sweeps all before it with which it comes in contact. Then good resolutions avail little, for one is borne on by an irresistible current, and made to do just those things one ought not to do, and leave undone those things which one ought to do.

Time seems annihilated, one spends one's days, and almost one's nights, yet all the time omit the very things one would have most pleasure in doing.

To put in an appearance at any reception, to follow up the "days" and the "evenings" and the "at homes" besides attending to the notable events, and keeping abreast of the musical events and the theaters, is beyond the limit of individual possibilities, setting aside the work for daily bread altogether.

Society does not now ask much of its members, beyond their presence in regulation costume. Ata "grand crush" no one can do much beyond exchanging *"how de dos,"* and getting rid of a little chicken salad. At smaller receptions and entertainments it is not now necessary to do anything, at least in the way of making oneself agreeable, for all that is done by readings and recitations, and music to which one can only listen, and the best listener is therefore rapidly taking place of the best talker in the good graces of modern hostesses. But, oh ye gods, to what do the patient ears of a polite crowd have to listen? and at what does not the masked face have to smile, and look pleased? Whatever the sins of society may be, will not such sacrifice of self as it enforces, be put down to its credit side, when accounts come to be made up?

GRAND ENTERTAINMENTS.

There have not been, and will not be so many large balls, and great public or private entertainments given this year as usual; various causes have been assigned for the lapse. The Infant Asylum Ball, grown into the rival of the "Charity" ball, will not take place this year, on account of the death of Mrs. C. K. Garrison, one of its most active and generous promoters, and business depression will probably account for the want of brilliance among some of the lesser luminaries, but at least three great events occur within a very short time of each other, and in their way represent the highest social life and interest that we possess. One of these is the Union League Club reception, which occurred on the 25th of January, another is a grand reception given by the publisher of "Johnson's Universal Encyclopedia" to his principal editors, President Barnard, Professor Guyot, and twenty-eight other gentlemen of distinction, announced for the thirty-first, and the "Charity" ball, the one public ball which the *elite* of New York attend, which comes off on the first of February. The Union League Club reception is a fashionable event; only one is given during the season, to which ladies are invited, but this is made memorable by whatever can charm the eye, please the ear, or delight the palate. The members are very numerous, many of them very wealthy; on this occasion, many of them bring wives, daughters, sisters or friends, and the air of the magnificent house is redolent of perfumes, not only from tropical plants and banks of flowers, but the fair guests who honor their entertainers with their beauty and richest toilets. A "crush" it is, but who dislikes the brushing of a lace flounce, the touch of a velvet arm, the flutter of fair curls against his manly form or upon his faultless coat? The sensation, if startling, is agreeable, and there are other male clubs that would follow the example of the Union League, and invite their lady friends at least once a year, if they could afford it. Mr. A. J. Johnson, who announces the novelty in an encyclopedical reception, is known almost as widely as the friend of Horace Greeley as he is as a publisher. It was he who gave Mr. Greeley the fine reception which signalized his sixtieth birthday. This affair, however, will greatly surpass that, for it is an honor to be paid to one of the most distinguished person. It includes three times the number of invitations, upwards of two thousand, and is given in one of the two or three largest and most complete houses in New York. A house with a bowling alley, with all the modern improvements and improvements in the basement, a room equally well adapted for billiard or ball room in the top of the house, and grand suites of reception rooms on both sides the wide hall, and furnished and decorated in best style known to modern industrial art. And what a comfort it is to look upon such work! We talk about the want of comfort and solidity nowadays, but we can have it by paying for it. Observe the massive oak Eastlake mantle pieces! All the ornamentation inlaid, or obtained from the natural beauty of the wood, placed in effective combination. Then the carpets of Aubusson tapestry were made to order, and the furniture and fresco-ing all arranged and executed to match. Every room is a picture, a well thought out and admirably executed picture of blended hues, softened lights and deep rich shadows. There is no break or weakness in the complete, harmonious tones. They are as full as the grand notes of the singer whose voice vibrates through the spacious rooms as she sings for the entertainment of the guests. "Who is she?" passes from lip to lip, and no one is surprised to find that it is Miss Abbott, who, sacrificing her interests to her conscience, has returned to her native country, with her wonderful voice enriched by cultivation, a voice which needs only to be heard to be recognized as a glory to its possessor. All this, which is not at all so interesting as this unique reception which brings together the intellect, if not the fashion of the land, though there is a goodly representation of fashion too. But then the charity opens with a procession of some of the richest of the "leaders" in society, and though they, as a general rule, are too experienced and too thrifty to wear their very latest and prettiest on so public an occasion, yet it is something to see themselves, while among the younger and less prudent ladies there is no lack of elegant toilettes.

SOME EVENING AND BALL COSTUMES.

I have remarked in previous letters, and must repeat, for it is the prominent fact, that the reduction in the amount of trimming, and the simpler designs, have brought back a much richer class of materials, or *vice versa*. The revival of costly fabrics renders fanciful designs impossible, and trimming, much of it at least, unnecessary. Still what there is must be of an expensive character. Rich fringe, real lace, raised embroidery, or trimmings of feathers, constitute the principal decorations of elegant toilettes, and cost nearly as much, perhaps more, than the more essential portion. Rich matelassee silks, velvet and matelassee satins, in finished faille, are all used single, or in combination, and not unfrequently, and costly fringe, expensive feather ruching, and real lace, the latter at least for the neck and sleeves has to be all united in the same dress. Among the richest dresses for dowagers are *Princesse* robes of figured velvet in small arabesque, or birds-eye patterns, mounted with piping, pockets and bows, of rich faille in the same shade, and finished at the neck and cuffs with plaitings of crepe lisse and scant ruffles of point, or point appliqué laces. This is the way ruffles for "dress" purposes are invariably arranged, the lace next the skin, the plaitings, which are very fine, next the dress—but this is when the coiffure is high, or cut open V (heart shaped) or square. Low bodies only require a lace, with a narrow velvet run through the little "footing" below. Of course such dresses are made much more costly and much more elaborate by scarf folds, or tunics of rich damask or brocade, bordered with Moorish or sewing silk fringe, and these are, perhaps, in their highest forms, the richest styles of dress to be found.

Great efforts are made to revive satin, both for the body part of dresses and as trimming; it is always worn more or less abroad, especially in England, but American ladies, and I think wisely, do not take kindly to its gloss and obtrusive character. They prefer the greater depth, though less lustrous sheen of satin finished *faille*, or the stateliness of velvet to the surface gloss of ordinary satin, which can be purchased at much less cost than a really good silk.

Good dressmakers try to avoid (in making up handsome dresses of two fabrics) designs that are used in making old dresses over with a new material. Of these are all those which divide the gores, making the sides of one material, the front of another. Of these also, are those in which a plain train and sleeves are combined with a figured or striped boddice and apron, and particularly the sleeveless tunics, so useful to freshen up old dresses, from which the glory, possibly even the buttons of the waist, have departed. It is above all things necessary now that a dress should look complete, with nothing of the patchy aspect that distinguishes the first part of our era of combinations. A very rich dress made for the Charity ball was of black brocade, with linings and bows of pale amber faille. The trimming was black ostrich feather ruching, and white Duchesse lace.

A dress of pale pink silk was combined with brown velvet, and trimmed with white lace. The garniture was brown leaves and Christmas roses. A handsome dress of seal brown silk is trimmed with sewing silk fringe (knotted) of the same shade, and a little feathery ruching of cardinal red silk, placed inside the neck, upon the inside edge of the cuffs, and across the inner edge of the pocket. Beyond this a lovely edge of real lace was visible. This is a pretty addition to any dress, and assists in giving the look of softness and fullness, which is considered so essential to the finishing at the throat and wrists. All white dresses are almost restricted to young girls in their first season, and are usually made of white over white silk, and trimmed with flowers and grasses, clematis, snow drops, lily of the valley, daisies, or white roses. Of course there are many white dresses which are not all white, but have color in the flowers and ribbons, as well as the the tinting of the grasses and foliage, to save too bride-like effect.

The pompadour colors, pale blue and pink, are often united in ribbons, but brown and pink, cardinal red and tea rose, and wine color and pale blue are newer and may be rendered very effective with a proper arrangement of flowers, say large French daisies, with black centers and brown foliage with the first, poppies and wheat with the second, and trails of variegated chrysanthenums or pond lilies with the third.

White chestnut blossoms are lovely with cardinal red, and variegated roses with cream frosted Christmas roses look well on black tulle, and white roses on pale blue silk, particularly if the wearer is a delicate blonde with golden hair. If she is a blonde with ash colored hair, I should recommend pale silk with white roses.

COLORS AND WEARERS.

We are learning a good deal in regard to color, and putting what we know to use in dress as well as in furnishing and other things. Persons whose eyes have not been educated have no idea of color, except the bold, plain, hard greens, yellows and reds, which have been flaunted in flags and colored pocket handkerchiefs since these articles were made, and they ask, can I wear blue? can I wear red? can I wear yellow? as if the one primeval fact represented all the possibilities in color in the universe. Yet it is something to be able to distinguish red from yellow, and *vice versa*. A lady insisted the other day, that an India shawl had not a tinge of yellow in it, which had quantities of yellow, shaded into brown, mingling with its red. The eyes of most American women readily take in color, and the infinite variety of tints, which, when properly employed in dress, make of a beautiful woman an exquisite poem set to music. The tradition that fair-haired women must wear only blue, and dark women only scarlet or maize, has disappeared before the infinite variety of shades which modern industrial art has developed in fabrics. Among three hundred shades of brown, green, blue or yellow, some can be found to suit all complexions; or if the tint itself is not particularly becoming, it can be arranged, brightened or subdued by a contrast until the proper tone is produced. The difficulty is that the distinctions are so fine, the differences so many, and the possibilities so infinitely diversified, that questions in regard to color cannot be answered with a bold yes or no. Each one requires a dissertation. In fact, knowledge of color ought, and undoubtedly will, sometime, form part, and a very important and delightful part, of our education.

Already a private correspondence has been established between color and sound. By and by we shall be able to construct harmonies in dress on the principle of symphonies in music. Then dress will indeed become a fine art.

But it is because we have not yet arrived at that degree of knowledge; because, as yet, the fine possibilities which lie hidden in color and fabric, are to most of us a sealed book, that I say, constantly arm yourselves, you who would avoid shocking refined and intelligent taste, in strictest neutrality. We can all of us appreciate a simple costume of dark, soft brown silk, with a line of real lace up the throat and wrists, and a flower in the place of jewels. We can mark at once the satisfaction which all the wearer has, but it is suggested more by what she does not, than by what she does wear.

We see that she has not only an innate sense which she will not shock, but that she is content to be guided by her limitless, a lesson so few learn, but which lies at the root of all dignity, of all character, of all true self-respect. There is a good deal to be learned from the stage in regard to dress, provided the actress is a true and conscientious artist in her profession. There was a time, not so long ago, when it was a sort of contest who could show the most expensive wardrobe upon the stage. Part of the capital of an actress consisted of her dresses, and her appearance upon the stage at all, young women would order expensive wardrobes from Paris, which were announced and described in the newspapers, and when they did obtain their opportunity, come times in never came at all, people went to see to the dresses, which rarely bore any relation to the part which a debutante must assume. Miss Clara Morris deserves the credit of preserving always a singular harmony between the stage character and the costumes in which she clothes it. She was never remarkable for costliness of dress, but it always fits her part, and is complete in details.

What could be more appropriate to *Miss Multon* than the sole rich gray woolen damask, with its silk folds? and the long jacket which she adds to it as a traveling costume is at once suggestive of completeness, finish and good taste, and the narrowness of her resources, which did not permit of an extended wardrobe. The one other dress, a Princesse morning dress, of dark crimson cashmere, with a few ribbon bows matching in shade, in which we see her, is equally appropriate; and is properly finished by a shawl richer in color than the dress, and of soft wool, which is all the protection she requires in a garden walk, and assists in giving her the appearance of age she requires.

Actresses could do even more to educate the public taste in regard to dress, if, instead of studying fashion plates, they would study the characters they assume, picture them before their eyes, and dress them in a costume expressive of their qualities and the position in which they are placed.

A French actress recently, having to personate a treacherous, bold, bad woman, dressed her in a striking costume of black and yellow, which in French authority suggests the tiger at once, when boldly and strongly contrasted.

"EASTLAKE" DRESSES.

The fashionable rage for Eastlake has suggested a style of dress to which his name has been given. It consists of velvet, faille, or brocade, any one rich material cut, plain, with a square train, a basque cut, a low narrow square in front, and sleeves half long, with scant ruffles of wide, real lace. The trimming consists of hand embroidery set in, or wrought in the fabric, not put on it, fringe tied in with the fabric, or simple folds and pipings. The designs are simple, the fabric rich, and the ornamentation real and costly, but used only in small quantities.

NECKERCHIEFS AND COLLARS.

Small handkerchiefs trimmed with lace, or silk ones with borders, have now quite taken the place of the lace scarfs, and will be used with spring mantles on the removal of furs. When trimmed with lace they are not square, but are more than half square, the upper edge being turned over to form a straight collar, which is bordered like the lower corner with lace—Valenciennes, duchesse, chuny or cashmere.

Turned down collars have as yet, found no favor, the small erect collar, or with corners turned down, are the ones still used in linen, and the former is also employed as formerly, for the finishing of polonaise and dress bodies, which are cut very high and very long.

The polonaise, the blouse waist, and the straight overskirt will be in vogue again during the coming spring and summer; the latter style is especially appropriate for print and gingham dresses for girls.

Ladies who use the winter days and evenings to make up supplies of underwear for spring and summer, are recommended to try the French percale, which is light, very soft, durable and washes easily. It is specially nice for night gowns. Under linen is now fashionably trimmed with the new torchon Smyrna lace, instead of being hand embroidered, a finish which wears as long as the fabric.

FANCY DRESSES.

Nothing historical is called for this year in the way of fancy dresses; everything is quaint, characteristic, or grotesque. Masked balls are now indeed rarely given, but costumes are often required for charades or fancy dress parties. Dickens and Mother Goose furnish the principal part of the characters assumed, and the cuts which accompany the letter press often furnish the only hints obtainable in regard to dress. That is the reason, probably, why Old Mother Hubbard always wears a Welsh hat, when a neat cap would so much better suit her age and domestic disposition. This will account also for the long velvet boddice, open over a pointed stomacher, the elbow sleeves and flowered petticoat of the little shepherdess who lost her sheep and could not tell where to find them. Very much better would be a little blue short gown belted over her petticoat with short looped sleeves, and stout shoes, instead of fancy little slippers. If any young lady readers want to dress in character, we advise them to get all the hints they can, but think it out for themselves. A little realism will sometimes make a great success in regions given over to fancy.

BUSTLES.

To be, or not to be, is the question with

DRY GOODS

1877.

WM. SEMPLE,

New Goods, New IN

We take special pleasure in inviting the attention of purchasers to a new and complete line of

Black Cashmeres

we have just opened, in all the different and various qualities, lowest to very finest grades, in Wool, All Wool and Silk Warp, and offered at quite a reduction in prices from former goods.

Black Dress Silks.

And to another opening to-day of Black and Colored Dress Silks, offered at prices making them Special Good Bargains.

☞ The previous line of these goods having been so highly appreciated and proven such a success, we are pleased to announce in our new silks, if anything, still better value.

New Suitings, &c.

We have the following additional bargains now on our counters, which are all New Goods lately opened.

At 10c, Plain and Plaid Knickerbocker Suitings.

At 8½ and 10c. new Poplin and Wool Plaid Suitings.

At 12 1-2 Cents,

New Styles Fresh Dress Goods.

At 22 and 25c, new Basket Suitings, formerly 37½ and 50c.

At 15c, Wool Striped Oversuitings.

Serges and Brocades.

Also, a new line, opened to-day, in Single and Double Serges, All Wool Striped Sattenes, All Wool Striped Brocades, Striped and Plain Cashmere Suitings, together with new novelties in French, English and American Dress Fabrics of new designs, at extremely

Low Prices!

Extra good bargains in Black Alpacas and Mohairs, of new and superior makes.

New Goods arriving daily.

☞ Each of our Departm

DRY GOODS!

Wednesday,

165, 167 & 169 F

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THE FO

LOWIN

Opening to-day, a new and large assortment of Ladies, Misses, Children, Gents and Boys'

Boots, Shoes, Gaiters,

Slippers, Gum and Arctic Overshoes, in all grades and styles, at much less than usual prices. New and Choice Assortment of

White Goods

of all kinds. Corded White P. K.'s from 11c up, and all at very lowest prices.

New Cloaks added daily to our stock, so that each garment is new and fresh and in latest seasonable styles, and all marked unusually low.

☞ We are just in receipt of a large and new line of WHITE

Muslin Underwear,

&c., consisting of Plain, Tucked and Embroidered Skirts; Plain, Tucked and Embroidered Waists; Plain, Tucked and Embroidered Chemises; Plain, Tucked and Embroidered Pants; Plain, Tucked and Embroidered Night Dresses Plain, Tucked and Embroidered

Infants' Robes,

Plain, Tucked and Embroidered Short Dresses, made in the best possible manner, of the best qualities of muslins, in great variety, and at prices rather lower than usual.

Suits and Costumes.

Ladies' Black and Colored Suits.
Ladies' Overdresses and Costumes.
New and Fashionable Shawls.

Blankets, Quilts, &c.

New and Fresh White and Colored Blankets, Comforts, Coverlets, Quilts, &c., at very low prices.

Gents' Ready Made Clothing in latest styles, at reduced prices. Fresh and complete stock.

ents is at present unusually a

JOSEPH HO

MARKET

HAVE NOW OPEN EN

FALL AND AU

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOOD
COTTON AND WOOLEN GOODS, BARR
ERY, STRAW AND SILK GOODS, VEL
OWN IMPORTATION, BLACK AND CO
CLOSE CASH AND JOBBING TIME RE
VANTAGE TO EXAMINE OUR STOCK

WHOLESALE

DRY GOODS.

January 31st.

EDERAL STREET, A

ERS

s and Extra G

LLOWIN

We have received and opened to-day the following additional bargains to those we have been lately offering.

Napkins.

At 50 and 60c per dozen, a line of large Linen Table Napkins, very slightly imperfect.

Irish Linens.

Another lot of fine Irish Linens, in short lengths, offered at fully 50 per cent. less than real value, in lengths of from one-half a yard to four yards.

Calicos, Chintzes.

Also, new Shirting and Fancy Calicos, new Fancy Percales and Chintzes, new Fancy Cretonnes, &c.

At 6½c, Yard Wide Dark Chintzes.

At 5 and 6½c, best makes Fast Colored Calicos

Shirtings.

At 10c, 4-4 "FRUIT OF THE LOOM" SHIRTING MUSLINS.

Bargains!

☞ Despite the advance in Shirtings and Cotton Goods, being amply supplied, we still, and will continue to, offer all the Good Bargains to be found on our counters lately.

Dress Shirts.

Particular attention is requested to the unusual good bargains to be had in Unlaundried and Dress Shirts.

Shirt Fronts.

At 75c, the "Progress" Shirts, two in one, worth $2, and all numbers in Shirt Fronts, of our own manufacture, at unusually low prices, value being unexcelled anyw

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 31, 1876.

Banking circles to day were devoid of all events of special interest, the report from them being the one which has so frequently been made. In sympathy with general trade, our financial interests are carried along in a smooth and easy current, but safe, and it is to be hoped to a better condition. Money continues plenty, and the willingness to lend on satisfactory security all that could be desired. We report again the rate of discount at the banks to be 7@8 per cent. on prime business paper, and 6@7 on first-class collaterals. Street rates nominally 7@10 per cent.

—Stimulated by the general effort of the national banks to get a repeal of the war tax upon them, seven hundred or more of the leading bankers, merchants and manufacturers of New York have united in a special effort to get a repeal of the usury law of that State. The law there makes seven per cent. the legal rate and prescribes forfeiture of both principal and interest as well as imprisonment for infraction of the law. It is a little curious that a great mercantile State should maintain so severe a law, but it does. Those who seek to get it modified ask that the penalty shall be reduced to forfeiture of the excess over the legal rate. Speaking of this subject the Chicago *Times* says:

In ten States and five Territories of the Union there is no legal limit to the rate of interest that may be taken. The States referred to are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, South Carolina, Rhode Island and Texas. Connecticut abolished its usury law a few years ago, but subsequently re-enacted it. The Territories that have no usury laws are Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Washington. In eleven States, namely, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont and West Virginia, the penalty prescribed is forfeiture of the excess of interest charged above the legal rate, which is practically about equivalent to no penalty at all. The penalty is the same in the District of Columbia. In Tennessee, however, it is an indictable offense to take more than the legal rate. From what has been said it will be seen that in twenty out of the thirty-eight States there is practical free trade in money. In most of the other States the penalty prescribed is forfeiture of all the interest. Delaware and Oregon are the only States that impose a penalty as severe as Pennsylvania. New York in the severity of the penalty.

That such a law can be carried out to the letter is next to impossible, as the experience of men in other States shows. Thus, in Alabama the maximum legal rate is 8 per cent., but last year the actual business rate ranged all the way from 9 up to 37 per cent. In Georgia the legal limit of interest is 7 per cent., but the business rate ran from 12 up to 24 per cent. In Maryland the established rate is 6 per cent., but the business rate last year was from 7 to 12.

—The Boston *Daily Advertiser* says of our national securities:

The increasing price of our national bonds both at home and abroad is a very gratifying proof of the stability of the credit of our country. A comparison of the quotations at the present time with those of only one year ago shows that our securities are everywhere held in higher esteem. The bonds which are liable to be called in for redemption at an early day have not shared in the advance. The 6 per cent. 5-20's of 1867 sell in the London market for less than the 10-40's which bear but 5 per cent. interest, which was by no means the case a year ago. On the 28th January, 1876, the 10-40's were quoted at 107¾. Six months later, on the 28th of July, they were quoted at 108½, and last Saturday, the 27th instant, they stood at 110¾. There has been a very nearly equal advance in the new fives, which stood at 106¾ a year ago, at 106¾ six months ago, and are now quoted at 107¾. The quotations in our markets are made in paper, but reducing them to gold value at the closing prices for the day, we find that our 5-20's of 1867 have within the year advanced from 108¾ on 104¾; that the 10-40's, which stood at 103¾ on January, 1876, are now quoted at 107¾; and that the new fives have also improved one per cent. The conditions are all favorable for a large sale of the new issue of bonds, and there is little doubt that, after the whole amount of four and a half per cent. stock is sold, we can dispose easily of that which will bear four per cent. interest.

—The Supreme Court of the United States recently rendered a decision of importance upon the question of "profits used in construction." We give the opinion of the court, as delivered by Mr. Justice Bradley:

This action was brought by the Hartford and New Haven Railroad Company against Henry A. Grant, Internal Revenue Collector of the First District of Connecticut, to recover back the sum of $2,785 65 income tax, and $139 28 penalty, paid to him under protest in January, 1868. The controversy arose upon the question of the company's income for the two fiscal years ending August 31, 1867. During that period they expended from their earnings $55,712 60 in constructing over the Farmington river at Windsor a new stone bridge, to be used in place of a wooden bridge which was then in use, and charged the amount to current expenses. The assessor of internal revenue for the district insisted that this sum should have been charged to account of construction, and was liable to be regarded as "profits used in construction," within the meaning of the one hundred and twenty-second section of the act of June 30, 1864; and, therefore, he made a special assessment of the amount. The company having appealed to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue without effect, this action was brought.

A jury being waived, the cause was tried by the court, which found specially an agreed statement of facts. From this it appears that the amount charged to current expenses during each of the two years in (including together the said sum of $55,712 60) was not greater than the proper ordinary current expenses and depreciation of the entire property; and that the company returned the entire balance of their gross earnings, over and above said expenses, in the shape of dividends and surplus, and paid the regular tax thereon.

We do not see why this was not a full compliance with the law. The object of the law was to impose a tax on net income, or profits, only; and that cannot be regarded as net income, or profits which is required and expended to keep the property up to its normal condition proper for operation. Such expenditure is probably classed with repairs which are a part of the current expenses. If a railroad company should make a second track, when they had but a single track before, this would be a betterment or permanent improvement, and it paid out of the earnings, would be fairly characterized as "profits used in construction." The works of the company would have an additional value to what they had before, with an increased capacity for producing future profits. This kind of expenditure is what Congress meant to reach, when in the 122d section referred to, it imposed a tax not only on the dividends of every railroad, canal and turnpike company, but also on "all profits of such company carried to the account of any fund, or used for construction."

The counsel for the Government insists that this bridge was a betterment, because it was much more valuable than the old wooden bridge. But the assessor did not include the excess merely; he assessed the whole expenditure bestowed upon the new bridge, without making any allowance for the old one. His idea seems to have been that all earnings used in new constructions are made taxable by the act without reference to betterments, or to their being substituted for other constructions. Indeed, his assessment is not for "profits used in construction," but for "earnings used in constructing the new bridge over the old one, when in good repair, the case might have admitted of very different consideration.

The judgment of the Circuit Court is affirmed.

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at two P. M., to day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	....	....	46¾
Reading	....	12½	....
United Cos. of N. J	140	140¾	....
Phila. Title & Bonding	....	7½	....
Lehigh Valley	46¾	47	....
Allegheny Valley 7.30's	105	105¼	....
Central Transportation	....	23¾	....
Empire Transportation	49	49½	....
P., C. & St. L. 7's	....	....	87

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 105¾

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 31.—Money easy at 3@4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 4½@6 per cent. Customs receipts $295,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $290,000. Clearings $37,000,000. Sterling steady at 484@485¾.

GOLD.

Gold weak, opening at 105¾ and closing at 105¼. Carrying rates 3.4 and 4¼ per cent. Silver at London 57¾ pence per ounce; here bar silver is 1306@130¾ per ounce in greenbacks and 123½@124 in gold; silver coin ¼ per cent. discount to par.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Railroad bonds generally lower. State securities quiet. Government bonds dull and weak. Stocks irregular with great activity and wide fluctuations in coal shares. Before midday Delaware and Hudson Canal declined to 50¾, Delaware, Lackawanna and Western to 97¾, New Jersey Central to 21¾, Illinois Central fell to 50½, and St. Paul preferred advanced to 48¾. The decline was caused by unfavorable rumors relative to the action of the stockholders of New Jersey Central at a meeting then in session, and unfounded reports that Delaware, Lackawanna and Western was unable to meet its bills payable. But when it was ascertained that the meeting of the New Jersey Central stockholders was a large and unanimous one and that the interest on the first mortgage bonds would be promptly met to-morrow and that the $3,000,000 certificates of indebtedness which it was proposed to issue to raise funds to relieve the financial necessities of the company had been liberally subscribed for by the stockholders present, many of whom were largely interested in the property, there was a general scramble for coal stocks, and in the rush to buy New Jersey Central advanced to 27, Delaware and Hudson Canal to 61¾ and Delaware, Lackawanna and Western to 69¼. In the closing dealings New Jersey Central sold at 26 and Delaware and Hudson Canal at 60¾, while Delaware, Lackawanna and Western was firm at the highest point. The general market was feverish and irregular, some times sympathizing with coal stocks and at others acting independent of them. St. Paul preferred advanced to 48¾, reacted to 47¾ and closed at 48¾; Illinois Central declined to 50½ and rallied to 51¾; St. Paul common rose to 19 and closed at 18¾. Among the active stocks there were frequent fluctuations in Western Union and Lake Shore; the former ranged between 77 and 75¾ with closing sales at 75¾, and the latter range from 55¼ to 54¾, with final sales at the lowest figure. Michigan Central rose to 48¾ and closed at 47¾, the lowest point. Express stocks were steady except for United States, odd lots of which sold as low as 49. Transactions 231,000 shares, of which 47,000 were Western Union, 31,000 St. Paul, 45,000 New Jersey Central and 4,000 Delaware and Hudson Canal. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

West. Union Tel..	75¾	N. J. Central.....	23¾
Quicksilver.....	14	Rock Island.....	101¾
Do. preferred..	25½	Pacific Mail....	24¾
Mariposa.....	8	Do. preferred....	48
Do. preferred..	18	Toledo & Wabash..	9
Adams Express..	104	Ft. Wayne.....	100¾
Wells-Fargo Ex..	84	Terre Haute.....	5
American Ex.....	57	Do. preferred....	14¼
United States Ex.	49¼	Chicago & Alton..	101¾
New York Central.	101¾	Do. preferred....	110¼
Erie.....	18½	Ohio & Mississippi.	6¾
Do. preferred....	36	Bur. & Quincy....	117½
Harlem.....	140	Mich. & Lake	6¾
Do. preferred....	136	A. & P. Tel. Co....	13½
Michigan Central.	47¾	Missouri Pacific...	19¾
Panama.....	122	Indiana Centrals...	2%
Lake Shore.....	54¾	Hannibal & St. Joe.	19¾
Ohio and Pitts....	9¾	Do. pref. stock..	34½
Illinois Central..	67¼	Central Pac. bds..	107¾
Northwestern....	24¾	Union Pac. bds....	104¾
Do. preferred....	56	Do. land grants..	101¾
C., C., C. & I....	20	Do. S. F. bonds..	97

COMMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881.	113¾	New 5's.....	111¾
5-20's, 1865.....	108	New 4½'s.....	105¾
5-20's, 1865, reg..	106½	10-40's, registered.	105¾
5-20's, 1867.....	112¾	10-40's, coupons..	105¾
5-20's, 1868.....	116	Currency 6's.....	122

STATES.

Tennessee, old..	42¾	Virginia, old.....	30
Tennessee, new...	42¾	Missouri 6's.....	101¾
Virginia, new.....	30		

Monday, January 31, 5 P. M.—The amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balances to-day is £287,000. Consols 95 15-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 109½; do 1867, 110; 10-40's, 110½; new 5's, 107¾. Railroad securities—New York Central 99½; Erie 9¾; preferred 21¾.

PARIS, January 31.—Rentes 108 francs 25 centimes.

FRANKFORT, January 31.—United States bonds—New 5's 103¾.

NEW ORLEANS, January 31.—Gold 105¾@105¾. Sight exchange on New York ¾ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 511½.

—The Boston *Daily Advertiser* says of our national securities:

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, Wednesday, January 31, 1877.

Trade during the week ended to-day has been somewhat like the weather, changeable from day to day, but on the whole fair for the season. Sales were made in small lots, but with a frequency which was compensating. Country dealers avoid buying themselves under obligations by taking large stocks, and confine themselves to such purchases as meet the actual demands upon them. The provision trade has generally held its own, although for the freshly killed hogs in the country having been used instead of cured meats, have interfered to the demand that packers would otherwise have had. Grocers also have sold pretty freely, and prices have fluctuated but little, no very important changes in standard articles having occurred. The flour trade has been the one most active, and the high prices recently asked have been maintained without material alterations. There is a tendency to decline in the wheat quotations, and for the last few days flour can hardly be said to have been so firm. The grain trade has been dull, the receipts of all kinds being light and transactions comparatively insignificant. Corn is coming in more freely, especially by river, and the market is easier, but without changes. Rye and barley are very firmly under the rates held by refiners. The greatest depression has been in the produce market, nothing having been done except in a few of the most commonly used articles. Taken altogether the general markets here have undergone no important changes during the week ending to-day.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

	Last week	This week	Total
Flour, bbls.....	10,813	9,875	20,688
Apples, bbls.....	743	519	1,262
Peaches, bxs.....	399	75	474
Corn, bus.....	14,441	13,387	27,826
Wheat, bus.....	9,121	6,883	16,004
Barley, bus.....	12,977	11,939	24,916
Rye, bus.....	885	2,885	3,770
Oats, bus.....	9,774	15,127	24,901
Butter, pkgs.....	497	678	1,044
Bacon, pcs.....	4,934	12,200	16,334
Bacon, lbs.....	480	307	787
Potatoes, bus.....	2,200	4,345	6,545
Hay, gales.....	1,272	3,846	5,118

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in whol sale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The grain market continues without quotable changes, though inquiries and offers are more frequent. Prime red wheat $1 46@ 1 48 ₩ bushel; prime white $1 48@1 53. Corn—Ear on wheat 52c; on track 53@55c ₩ bushel; shelled 51@ 52c ₩ bushel. Oats—Prime, 39@40c ₩ bushel; mixed 36@38c. Rye 73@75c ₩ bushel. Barley 85c ₩ bushel for choice; 75@80c for good to prime; spring $1 00 for prime fall; for low grades 60c.

FLOUR—Stands at the figures given, though less firmly, everything considered, than yesterday. Speculation in Chicago stiffened the market there, but there is little impression, as it was considered a "squeeze" to help better prices at the beginning of the month. We have no quotable changes to record. We quote:

White wheat flour at	$5 50@5 75 ₩ bbl; No. 1 amber do at $5 00@5 25 ₩ bbl; No. 2 do do $4 50@4 75 ₩ bbl; patent Valentine, new, 9½c ₩ lb; Spring Wheat flour, new, $5 50@5 75 ₩ bbl; Minnesota $7 75@8 00; fancy St. Louis $9 25@9 75; Chicago XXX do $6 50@7 00; Ohio do $6 00@7 00; commeal 70c ₩ bushel; oatmeal $6 75@7 00 ₩ barrel; kegs $3 75@4 00; rye flour $4 75 in sacks $4 75 ₩ barrel.

MILL FEED—Owing the scarcity of wheat, and the diminished amount of grinding done by local millers the high prices which we quote are firmly maintained. We quote bran at $18 00@19 00 ₩ ton at wholesale, and $20 00@21 00 in a jobbing way; middlings $23 00@25 00; second and shipstuff $16 00@18 00; chopped feed $20 00@25 00.

HAY—The market is well supplied, prairie hay coming in rather freely. We have not yet, however, no changes to notice. We quote: No. 1 timothy $13 00@15 00; No. 2 timothy $12 00@13 00 from first hands baled. Prairie—Upland $11 00 @12 00; mixed $9 00@10 00.

Country Produce.

The produce market was moderately active, but without important alterations in quotations. So far as changes are concerned our report this week is almost a mere transcript.

APPLES—Are in full supply and we quote the best at $1 50@1 75 ₩ barrel; lower grades $1 00 @1 50.

APPLE BUTTER—No demand, or but a light one, and quoted at 35@40c ₩ gallon as to quality.

BEANS—Are in fair demand at $2 00@2 25, according to quality, for prime white navy. Lima beans, new crop, $4 50 per bushel.

BROOM CORN—To meet the demands of the spring trade, manufacturers are now buying and stocking up, and we note an advance in some kinds. We quote: Choice hurl 4½@5c; good to quality brush 3½@4c; will work 4½@5c; medium green 4½@4½c; red-tipped 3½@4c; inferior, or damaged, 2½@3c. The yield is about 33 per cent. off the prices given, as to quality.

BROOMS—Nothing doing and quoted at 30@35c ₩ 2 for new crop.

BROKEN DRIED CORN—Fair supply and quoted at 30@35c ₩ bushel.

HOMINY—Demand moderate at $3 50@3 75 ₩ barrel.

NUTS—Hickory nuts dull at 75c@$1 00 per bushel; shellbarks, a light demand and quoted at $1 25@1 50.

ONIONS—Still scarce and to-day higher; quoted at $3 75@4 00 ₩ bbl.

PEACHES—California sun-dried 22c ₩ lb; home honey 22c.

CRANBERRIES—Supply sufficient and market dull. The quotations are $10 00 ₩ bbl; $5 25@ 3 50 ₩ bushel.

CIDER—Is in full market and prices unchanged at $3 50@4 50, barrel included, for common; $5 00 @5 50 for extra prime.

DRIED FRUITS—The supply is abundant and the demand very limited. We quote dried apples at 4@5c ₩ lb for prime; 2@3c for sliced; 2@3c for sliced; dried peaches 13c; evaporated peaches 15@20@25c per pound according to quality.

DRIED PEAS—The demand is moderate for new and prices unchanged at $1 50.

BUTTER—All grades are in full supply; the demand moderate. We quote: Choice solid packed 18@20c; fair to good 15@17c; choice dairy rolls 22@25c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—In fair demand at $3 75@ 4 00 per bbl for prime; $7 25@7 50 per bbl.

CHEESE—We quote prime Ohio factory at 14¼ @14½c in round lots; 15@15½c in small lots. New York 15¼@16c in round lots; 16@16½c in a jobbing way. Young American 18c; nutmeg 17c.

SEEDS—As sowing time is yet some distance in the future, there is not much demand for seed, though inquiries are increasing. The rates at the store are: Clover seed $3 85@3 90 ₩ bushel of 62 lbs; timothy seed $2 30@2 15.

BEANS—Fresh stock not yet enough for the demand, which was not active. We quote fresh at 2½@3c ₩ dozen; cold picked at 2½@2½c.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 55@56c ₩ lb at wholesale; 60@70c in a jobbing way; mixed are quoted at 30@35c ₩ lb at wholesale; 40@45c in a jobbing way.

DRESSED HOGS—Not very plentiful, and quoted at 7½c ₩ lb.

POULTRY—The demand for dressed continues active. We quote: Dressed chickens 12½@15c ₩ lb. We quote live turkeys at 75c@$1 00 each; dressed 12½@13c ₩ lb. Live chickens in coop 4½@5c ₩ lb. Ducks, live, 4½@5c ₩ pair; dressed 12½@13½ ₩ lb. Geese 50@60c each; dressed 8@9c ₩ dozen.

POTATOES—More plenty and a shade lower. We quote to-day: Prime peachblows, $1 30 in small lots; early rose $1 30@1 35; Pearless $1 25. Sweet potatoes $5 25@5 50 ₩ barrel.

VINEGAR—There is scarcely anything doing. We quote: Common, $1 00@1 25 ₩ gallon for country stock; 14c for best city make; wine vinegar 20c.

WOOL—Nothing doing. Common fleece, ₩ lb, 33c; ¼ to full blood, ₩ lb, 33@37c; combing, ₩ lb, 37@40c; unwashed, ₩ lb, 30@32c; city pullings, ₩ lb, 22@30c; unwashed, ₩ lb, 18@22c.

Provisions.

Trade was reported pretty good. We have, however, no changes of essential interest to record. We give below the ruling quotations:

BACON—Shoulders 8½@ per pound; short rib sides 10½c; clear sides 10½c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams are firm at 12½c ₩ lb for extra sugar-cured. Breakfast bacon rules strong, and we quote sugar-cured at 13¾c. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 9½c. Dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 10c. Beef tongues, per dozen, are quoted at $6 50.

LARD—Kettle lard, tierces, 11¾c; ¼ bbls 12¼c; pails 13¼c. Refined lard—Tierces 12c; ¼ bbls 12½c; 20-lb pails 13c; 5-lb tin pails 14½c; 5-lb do 15½c; 2-lb do, 16½c; 3-lb caddies, 14½c; 5-lb do 14¼c.

LARD OIL—Cincinnati oil, double extra $1 00 @1 05 ₩ gal; extra 90@95c; No. 1, 78@85c; No. 2, 65@68c; miners' white winter 65c; miners' yellow winter 60c. Pittsburgh oil, double extra winter strained 98c ₩ gal; No. 1 do 80c; No. 2 do 65c.

MESS PORK—Following are the ruling quotations: $18 50 ₩ bbl. The market is reported quiet and firm.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers' city rendered, at 8¼c ₩ lb; country do 7½c ₩ lb; rough 2½c ₩ lb.

Groceries.

As in the case of provisions, groceries were fairly active. Our quotations are as below:

Green Coffees.	₩ lb.	Sugars.	₩ lb
Fancy Rio.....	24½c	Standard A.....	11⅝c
Choice Rio.....	21	Standard B.....	11¼c
Prime Rio.....	20½c	Do. extra C.....	11⅛c
Good Rio.....	21	Extra C—yel.	9½@10 c
Ordinary Rio.....	20	C—yellow.....	9½@9¾c
Java.....	30½c	Franklin, B.....	10½@10¾c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans..	8½@10c
Rio in papers..	27 @28	Cut Loaf.....	13½@13¾c
20 grades do..	25 @26	Crushed.....	12½c
Rio, in bulk..	24½@27½c	Powdered.....	12½c
Java, in p'rs..	32 @36	Granulated.....	12¼c
Java, in bulk..	30½@33 c	Molasses.	₩ gall.
Teas.		Drip, ch. N. O.	——c
Young Hyson..	26@41 c	Prime.....	55c
Gunpowder..	35@	Syrups.	
Imperial.....	30c@	Ex. white drips..	61@65c
Japan.....	28c@	Sugar drips.....	55c
Oolong.....	28c@	Lower grades..	45@50c
Fancy do.....	1 00	Starch.	₩ lb
Souchong..	38c@	Pearl.....	3¼@3½ c
Spices (whole).		Silver gloss.....	6½c
Cloves.....	45 c	Corn.....	7¾@10½c
Allspice.....	30@31 c	Pulverized.....	7½c
Cassia.....	30@31 c	Chicago corn..	8½c
Nutmegs.....	$1 15	Rice.	
Pepper.....	30 c	Choice Carolina..	6¾@7 c
Soaps.		Louisiana.....	5¾@6¼c
Irish soap, ₩ box..	4½ 28	Candies.	
S. S. Star, ₩ box..	5 75	Star, full wt't.....	18 c
Babbitt's best, ₩ bx	6 75	Stearine.....	11@12 c
Dingee's, ₩ box..	4 50	Mould.....	11½c
California, ₩ box..	4 2		

CANNED GOODS—No change in prices. We quote green peas, 75 cans ₩ dozen, $1 40@2 25; raspberries do $1 85; strawberries do $1 65; gooseberries do $1 50; pineapples do, $2 20; blackberries do, $1 50; peaches, 1 lb cans per doz, $2 25; tomatoes do, $1 00; pickles, bbls, $6 ₩ bbl; half bbls, $4 75.

FISH—Following are the ruling quotations at which sales are made:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess mackerel.....	$27 00	Round herring...	$6 50
Extra No. 1 mackerel.....	25 00	Split Labrador do	8 00
Extra No. 1 trout	16 00	Lake Pick. do fish	6 00
Extra No. 2 large	13 00	Lake Herring, do.	2 75
No. 2 medium....	12 00	L'ge Georges cod-	
Large No. 3.....	12 00	fish, ₩ lb.....	6
No. 3 medium....	11 00	Medium Georges.	5½
No. 3 mackerel..	10 00	Pollock, ₩ lb....	3½
Whitefish, hf-bbls	5 75	No. 1 Herring, ₩ bx	12
Lake Trout, do ..	4 50	Scaled herring do	20

FOREIGN FRUITS—The spot market for fruits prices rule as below. We quote: Layers raisins, new, per box, $2 25; London layers, new, $3 25; Muscatel raisins, $4 @5; Valentias, new, 9½c ₩ lb; Sultana do, 12c. Dates—Stuffing, 5½c ₩ lb; Fards, 7½c. Citron 30c. Prunes, old, 6¼c; new, 8½c. Almonds—Languedoc 23c; do shelled 38c; do Princess, 27c; do soft shelled, 25c. Filberts, 12½c. Walnuts—Naples 20c; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 16c. Smyrna figs, new, 14c. Brazil nuts, 10c. Macaroni 14@16c. Tapioca 10c. Lemons—Palermo, ₩ box, $2 75. Oranges—Florida $3 50 ₩ box. Cocoanuts $7 00 ₩ hundred.

Petroleum.

January 31.—The refined market continues dull; in fact, no one seems to be asking that we have a market. Beyonda few sales for local purposes there was nothing done; offered to the home trade at 24@24½c. At New York, while holders are asking 29½c, we hear of sales from second hand at 28@28½c. This lower then oil is quoted here. A sale of 30,000 barrels is reported on private terms, which means a low figure. Crude is dull at Bradford and Philadelphia the same dullness that characterized our market. Refiners are firm. Holders now asking 2¾c for standard white, without finding buyers; cases 3½c.

PARKERSBURG, January 31.—The oil market has been demoralized to-day. Commit and United opened at $3 17½, being 7½c under last night's quotations. This rapidly declined to $3 13½; here the decline was checked, and a reaction set in, carrying the price up to $3 17½, then down to $3 15½ and back to $3 20, where it steadied until late in the afternoon when a further decline took place to $3 15, the closing quotations. No open bids for Union. Shipment neglected; no quotations. Shipments from the lower districts for the past, 24,297 barrels.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

OIL CITY, January 31—The *Derrick* says of yesterday's market: Opening at $3 37½, the market dropped to 32½, then, in consequence of the action of the banks, 25 bids and for a time it seemed that the bottom had been reached at 25, but subsequently rallied to 32½, to indicate this supposition fallacious. From $3 30 it declined quite rapidly, with a fair business to 3 27½, at which it was weak at the close, $3 25 closing with offerings at that price and $3 26½ wanted. The receipts of all kinds being light and transactions comparatively insignificant. Corn is coming in more freely, especially by river, and the market is easier, but without changes. Rye and barley are very firmly under the rates held by refiners. Sales of 30,000 cases on private terms. Refined from second hand is offered at 28½c, while rule 29c. The following are the asking prices for New York delivery: Crude in bulk 24c; refined in barrels 29¾c for export; 30@30½c for home; Philadelphia and Baltimore refined, spot, rules at 29¾c.

PARKERS, January 31.—Market opened weak with reports of a three hundred barrel well in the Buffalo District; declined 2 cents, and is $3 18¾, but few bids of any kind; no inquiry for shipment.

Later.—Market steadier: United at $3 19¾ bid; no inquiry for shipment; about $3 35.

TITUSVILLE, January 31.—Market weak at $3 32½.

OIL CITY, January 31.—Market demoralized; buyers opening at $3 32½ for United; offers to sell at $3 15; immediate shipment not quotable. There was a panic last night, caused by new wells.

TITUSVILLE, January 31.—Market very much excited to-to off at $3 15 cash; quiet.

PHILADELPHIA, January 31.—Market quiet; crude 12¾c; standard white 25¾@26c; cases 30c.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, January 31.—Petroleum dull and heavy; crude 12¾c; refined 26½c; resales 27½@28c; 44 y nanks 44c.

LIVERPOOL, January 31.—Refined petroleum 17s; spirits do 10d.

ANTWERP, January 31.—Refined petroleum 50¾ francs.

MOVEMENTS OF PETROLEUM.

	Barrels.
Crude receipts. A. V. R. R.	2,139

General Merchandise.

ALCOHOL AND HIGHWINES—We quote alcohol at $2 18@2 30 ₩ gallon; highwines at $1 10 ₩ gallon.

BAGS AND BAGGING—There is a fair demand and prices rule as follows: Extra gunny bags 23c; do second-hand 15c. Union bags 24c. American A's 20c; Philadelphia A's 23c; California grain bags 9c; English do 19c. Penn Mill 3 bushel Wasle, Capital X-Adams, 9c; do 2 bushel 24c; Allegheny 2 bushel do 22c.

BAKING POWDER—Quoted as follows: ¼ cans $1 50 ₩ dozen; ½ cans $2 90; 1 lb cans $5 50; 5 cans $25 00; 10 lb boxes 40c ₩ lb. Market steady and demand good.

BRUSHES—The advance in bristling recently made and reported is maintained. The market is without any special features. The price list is as follows:

	Per foot.		Per foot.
1 inch wide.....	9	5 inches wide..	57
2 inches wide..	15	5½ inches wide..	63
2 inches wide..	21	6 inches wide..	69
2½ inches wide..	27	7 inches wide..	81
3 inches wide..	33	8 inches wide..	93
3½ inches wide..	39	10 inches wide..	1 17
4 inches wide..	45	12 inches wide..	1 41
4½ inches wide..	51	14 inches wide..	1 65

Discount 15 to 25 per cent., as to quality and quantity.

BROOMS—We note considerable activity in brooms, now that spring is near at hand, and an advance is expected. For the present the following are jobbing rates as quoted by manufacturers' agents:

No. 1 hurl.....	$1 65
No. 2 hurl.....	1 90
No. 3 hurl.....	2 25
No. 4 hurl.....	2 50
No. 5 hurl.....	2 75
No. 6 hurl.....	3 00
No. 3 carpet.....	3 25
No. 4 carpet.....	3 50
No. 5 carpet.....	3 75
No. 3 fancy parlor.....	4 00
No. 4 fancy parlor.....	4 50
Railroad (extra heavy).....	2 75@3 25
Hotel, fine corn (extra heavy).....	3 00@3 50
Whisps, 6, 8 and 10 inch.....	1 25@1 75
Toy brooms.....	1 20@1 75
Misses' brooms.....	1 00

CRACKERS—Demand active and prices higher. Water crackers 6½c; sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 6½c; soda crackers 6½c; extra Boston 10c; extra sodas 10c; ginger snaps 12½c; lemon biscuit 11½c. Trenton hard made crackers 90c per pound.

LEATHER AND HIDES—There has been a noticeable falling off in the demand for leather recently, and sales are restricted to immediate wants. Oak, rough, leather and No. 1 finished harness is in right supply. Of other kinds the supply equals the demand. Our quotations are without material change. The quotations on hides are unchanged.

Leather.

Oak sole, country ₩ b.....	30@ 34
Oak sole, city.....	32@ 36
Red sole, Buenos Ayres heavy..	29@ 31
Red sole, Buenos Ayres mid....	29@ 30
Red sole, Orinoco and Cala. heavy..	29@ 30
Red sole, Orinoco and Cala. mid....	28@ 30
Red sole, good damaged.....	26@ 28
Oak, rough.....	24@ 29
Harness, city oak.....	30@ 38
Harness, country.....	30@ 36
Harness, No. 2 and common..	26@ 28
Collar, oak sides, ₩ foot.....	15@ 17
Fair skirting ₩ b.....	37@ 40
Fair bridle and line, ₩ doz.....	54 00@66 00
Best leather ₩ lb.....	40@ 45
Finished calf.....	90@100
Finished upper, ₩ foot.....	16@ 20
Finished kips ₩ b.....	90@ 90

Hides.

Green salted cows.....	8 @ 8¾
Green salted steers, light.....	8 @ 8¾
Green salted steers, heavy.....	9 @ 9¾
Green salted calf.....	12 @13
Green butcher cows.....	5¾
Green butcher steers, light.....	6
Green butcher steers, heavy.....	7
Green butcher calf, light.....	10

HEMP—The demand is slow at $123 00@125 00 for Kentucky rough.

OILS—Trade is fairly active and the market is strong. We quote jobbing prices as follows: Neatsfoot, 90c; pure, winter strained, 90c; miners' oil—No. 1, 63c; head light, 55c; dogfish, extra test, 52c; carbon, 30 degrees test, 25@26c; extra straw oil, (paler color), 50c. No. 2 engine (amber color), 40c; extra engine (dark), 35c; West Virginia, 28 degrees gravity, 30c; No. 2 West Virginia, 25c; natural lubricating, 28 degrees gravity, 22@22c; car oil, No. 1, 18c; No. 2, 15c; amber burning or torch oil, 60 degrees test 18@18c; resin (strained), 40c; residuum (common), 35 50; coal oil, gravity, 43 gross, 42 00; rolling mill grease, ¾ pound, 7c; linseed oil, raw; whale oil 75c; cod oil, for tanners, 50@55c; straits oil, for tanners, 50@55c.

RAGS—The market is steady. We quote cotton mixed 2¾@2¾c ₩ lb; and woolen ½@2½c.

STOVE POLISH—Sales made at $5 75 ₩ gross.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 6 dozen, $5 00; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $4 50.

SODA—The fresh made is steady and unchanged. No 1 sells in car lots at $1 00 per barrel. We quote jobbing prices at $1 25 ₩ bbl for No. 1; $1 75 for extra; $2 for dairy. Liverpool salt repacked in large sacks of 220 lbs, 80@90c; 100 lb sacks dairy salt in small sacks 85@85 50 ₩ bbl.

WOODEN WARE—The market is quiet but rather nominal; former quotations being unchanged as follows:

No. 1 tubs ₩ dozen.....	$7 50
No. 2 tubs ₩ dozen.....	6 50
No. 3 tubs ₩ dozen.....	5 50
2-hoop pails ₩ dozen.....	1 85
3-hoop pails ₩ dozen.....	2 25
Washboard, patent, ₩ dozen.....	2 75
Washboards, common, ₩ dozen.....	2 00@2 15
Clothes pins, round head, ₩ box.....	70

WRAPPING PAPER—Crown straw and rag, 35c ₩ bundle; medium, 52c; double crown, 70c; double medium, $1 00; tissue manila, 35c; $2 25 ₩ ream; dry goods, 75c@$5 50; No. 1 manila, 10@11c ₩ lb; No. 2 do, 8@9c; flat cap, 4½c; tea do, 8@10c; flour sacks (¼ bbl), $5 00@ 6 00 ₩ 1,000; do (⅛ bbl), $3 50@4 00 ₩ 1,000; cotton sacks, 2 lbs do, $2 70; 3 lbs do, $3 70; 10 lbs do, $6 00; 16 lbs do, $9 50; 20 lbs do, $10 50.

CORDAGE AND ROPE—Manilla rope ¼ inch diameter and upwards, 13½c ₩ lb; ⅜ inches and upwards, 15½c; ½ and 5-16 inch diameter, 16½c; tarred rope and lath yarn 14½c; hay, stave and leather twine 14½. Oil well drilling cables. Hawser laid 15½c ₩ lb; hawser laid bolt rope yarns 16½c; sand pump rope 15½c. Sisal rope 1 inch diameter and upwards 11½c ₩ lb;

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Commercial in the East End.

S. W. ARNOT is the authorized agent for THE COMMERCIAL in the East End, and all persons wishing it served daily at their residence or place of business, will please leave their order at the East Liberty Station News Stand, and it will be served regularly at fifteen cents per week, payable to the agent.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 28, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 31, 1877.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	Wind. Dir.	Miles ₱ hour	Weath.
7A. M.	30 232	31	84	E.	1	Foggy.
2 P. M.	30 194	50	58	S. E.	10	Thrty.
9P. M.	30.102	52	53	E.	10	Cloudy

Mean barometer...30.180 Highest thermom... 53
Mean thermom.... 36.7 Lowest thermom.... 31

Gough and Ingersoll.

The sale of reserved seats for the lectures of those distinguished men, John B. Gough and Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, will commence this morning at Library Hall box office. The lecture of Mr. Gough will be given on Tuesday evening, 6th inst., and that of Colonel Ingersoll on Thursday evening, 8th inst. We advise those who desire admission to the hall to procure tickets early for *both* lectures, as there will certainly be a rush.

A Whistling Thief.

About nine o'clock last night a young man entered the grocery of Mr Robert Cressler, on Monterey street, Allegheny, while the proprietor was in a back room. As the fellow was loudly whistling "The Sweet by and by," Mr. C. did not divine his intentions until he heard him behind the counter, when the grocer rushed to the front just in time see the whistler scamper away with the money drawer containing about $2 and an old pair of scissors. The thief was not captured.

That "Crookedness."

The National Tube Works Company state that the article appearing in this morning's daily papers is the product of a discharged clerk, and that the alleged differences between the company and the Government is one of old standing, and at a time when they were importing largely of foreign iron. The sum in dispute, amounting to very much less than five thousand dollars, can be easily and satisfactorily explained. The whole business is one of black mail, which the company will deal with at its discretion.

The Humane Society.

The Executive Committee of the Humane Society held a regular meeting yesterday afternoon, Mr. W. H. Slack in the chair. Mr. Joseph Walter acted as secretary *pro tem.*, and in the absence of Mr. Street read the report of the Superintendent for the past week. The usual cases of cruelty reported and attended to were recorded. In the case of Mr. Trunick, of the Twenty-third ward, charged with cruelty to a dog, Alderman Larkin imposed a penalty of $20.

After the transaction of some business of no public importance the meeting adjourned.

Eighteenth Ward Republican Nominations.

The Republicans of the Eighteenth ward, this city, have made the following nominations for ward officers:

Select Council—(Full term) F. S. Bissell, (unexpired term of N. P. Sawyer) Samuel Garrison, Sr.

School Directors—David Kirk, C. W. Lewis.

Judge of Election—William Francis.
Inspector of Election—Florence Deuer.
Constable—Thomas Phillips.
Assessor—Andrew Kirkpatrick.

This ticket is an excellent one and if the Republicans do their duty they will carry the election in this ward this time.

Resulted Fatally.

A week ago on Tuesday an accident occurred at the brewery of Straub & Ludwig, in the Sixteenth ward, by which two employes were fatally injured. One of them died the following Saturday, at the Homœopathic Hospital, and Coroner Thomas held an inquest yesterday on the other, Lawrence Palmer, who died from the effects of his injuries on Tuesday. He had two men, Palmer and his companion, were working with the elevator, when it caught in some way, and both of them jumped upon it in order to alight. In this way suddenly, the cogs broke, and the elevator fell to the bottom, a distance of sixty or seventy feet. Palmer was thirty-three years of age, lived in the Sixteenth ward, and leaves a wife, but no children. The verdict was accidental death.

A Cloud Covered Clergyman.

From the Washington *Star* of Tuesday we learn that Dr. T. J. Simpson, formerly pastor of a church in Allegheny, and at one time an agent of a missionary society of the Congregational denomination, was arrested at his residence on Capitol Hill at a late hour on Saturday night, on the charge of adultery, made by Harrison Smith, who alleges that the accused has for some time been criminally intimate with Miss Mary A. Camp. His paramour, the *Star* says, formerly resided in Pennsylvania, but followed the object of her unlawful affections to this city. It is the "old, old story" of loving not wisely, but too well. Simpson has a wife and four children at present in New York. He was locked up, and on Monday, in the Police Court, in default of payment of a fine of $20, was committed to jail.

Mercantile Library Hall Company.

The annual meeting of the Mercantile Library Hall Company was held yesterday afternoon, in the Art Gallery of the building.

Thomas N. Miller was called to the chair and John B. Jackson made Secretary.

The President, Charles J. Clarke, Esq., read the report of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer also read his report and both were received and approved. An election of officers for ensuing year was then held with the following result:

President—Charles J. Clarke.
Vice President—Hon. Felix R. Brunot.
Secretary—John B. Jackson
Treasurer—William N. Riddle.
Directors—Joseph Dilworth, James Park, Jr., John W. Chalfant, Charles W. Batchelor, W. Thaw.
Adjourned.

A Missing Bookkeeper.

W. L. Forsythe, bookkeeper at the Eagle Cotton Mills, Allegheny, is said to have left the city. It is also stated that he is behind in his cash account about $900. The story goes that Forsythe collected a bill of $1,000 due his employers, on the 16th of January, and reported that he had been unable to get the money. On Saturday afternoon Mr. Harper, President of the Cotton Mills Company, remarked that he would make an effort to collect the sum himself, but he was absent from the customer and did not make the call that evening. On Monday morning Forsythe was absent from the office, and when Mr. Harper visited the merchant owing the bill he discovered that the money had been receipted for by the bookkeeper. Something over a hundred dollars was due Forsythe in the way of salary, and his defalcation is therefore nearly $900. He had been employed at the mills nearly nine years.

An Elopement

A special dispatch from Chillicothe, Ohio, under date of the 27th of January, says: A noted sporting man, by the name of Fritz Cook, forsaking his wife and family, yesterday eloped with Mrs. Powell, widow of a railroad conductor who was killed two years ago, through an accident on the road. Cook and his paramour, in order to avoid suspicion, took a hack to Kinnickinick station, six miles out on the Valley road. The abandoned wife got wind of the elopement, and followed in another carriage, accompanied by two or three female friends, all of whom were armed with cowhides. They overtook the guilty pair at the station, and Cook was compelled to exercise his muscles to defend his darling until the arrival of the train, when he made a grand dash, drove his pursuers back some distance, and then, jumping aboard the train, left his wife and friends lamenting. It is thought the runaway pair have gone to Pittsburgh.

Clark's $75,000.

In regard to the offsets of the McCully estate to the $75,000 due Mr. Clark under the "bond of friendship," his counsel, Mr. Acheson, states that the credit of $35,000 for the notes paid by Mr. McCully is correct, and is the same as if the money had actually been paid to the estate. Mr. Acheson further states that the bond of $20,000 on which Mr. McCully's names figures with that of Mr. Clark calls for the payment of but $10,000 or $11,000, the $20,000 representing the amount of the bond. The other claims occasion no dispute, Mr. Acheson says Mr. Frew is bound to protect the estate in all matters of this kind, but whether collection on this bond can be made remains to be seen. It is now four years since Mr. McCully died, and the question arises as to the amount of interest due on the $75,000 "bond of friendship." There is a dispute as to whether the interest commenced at the death of Mr. McCully or one year afterward, when the administrator's accounts were filed, in accordance with the restrictions of law. The counsel for Mr. Clark has not yet made a move in regard to the collection of the interest due, which amounts to quite a "snug" sum, and it is supposed that the proceedings will be marked by the same objections as were urged against the payment of the "bond of friendship." If interest is allowed for the four years it will be about $15,000, and if it is computed from one after the death of Mr. McCully it will reach $13,500.

THE BROWN HOMICIDE.

Trial of George H Bennet for Voluntary Manslaughter—The Jury, Without Leaving the Box, Find a Verdict of Not Guilty.

In the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday morning, Judge Stowe presiding, the case of the Commonwealth vs. George H. Bennett, indicted for voluntary manslaughter, was taken up.

District Attorney Montooth and C. M. Horner, Esq., appeared for the Commonwealth, and Messrs. Thomas M. Marshal and R. B. Carnahan for the defense.

The District Attorney, in opening the case stated that the Grand Jury had ignored the count in the indictment charging murder, and that the charge upon which the defendant would be tried was voluntary manslaughter.

After the defendant had pleaded not guilty to the indictment, testimony for the Commonwealth was heard as follows:

TESTIMONY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH.

Robert Gillespie sworn—Was standing at the corner of Fifth avenue and Smithfield street on the evening of the 25th of November; saw Sebastian Brown in Bennett's saloon; Bennett was behind the bar; went in there about six o'clock; Brown, the deceased had a little dog on his arm; Mr. Bennett asked him for pay; Brown said, "Do you want to rob me?" "No," said Bennett; "Do you want to fight me?" "No," said Bennett, "there is no fighting in this house;" Bennett told him he had better go home, and put on his coat, saying he was going to supper; he started out, and Brown followed him directly; heard the cry of "Fight!" but did not see it; am now living with Mr. Bennett; went to the safe and got it changed; Mr. Bennett laid it on the counter and said to the barkeeper that he thought he had not made the right change; Brown said, "G—d d—n you, you needn't think I would cheat you out of drinks." Bennett said he had a right to inquire after the change; Bennett then carried supper; Brown followed since; five feet behind him; he was muttering something; followed them along Fifth avenue to Cherry alley; heard Brown say, "Come in here and fight;" Bennett said, "I don't go into alleys to fight;" Brown then struck at him, but don't know whether he hit him or not; Bennett then struck him with his left hand; the man fell on Fifth avenue, on the back of his head; heard the crash; Bennett fell on him; Bennett struck him once only; did not see him kick him; Brown was picked up and set on a stone by two men; did not see Brown after that; Brown had some drinks in him, but didn't stagger.

Margaret Brown testified as follows: Am the mother of Sebastian Brown and am sixty four years old; saw him about four o'clock on the evening of his death; he left home then and said he would be back at half-past nine o'clock that night; saw him dead the next morning; he was twenty seven years old and stoutly built.

Dr. Estep, who was called to attend Brown at the house of Nora Wisely, on Grant street, testified as to the nature of the injuries. A superficial examination failed to develop any injury, but a *post mortem* showed a contused wound on the back of the head and a fracture of the skull about three inches in length. If the man fell backward when he was struck, the injury must have been caused by the fall. Found no external marks on the man's face or body.

Dr. McCann, who assisted at the *post mortem* examination, testified as to the fracture of the skull, and that the injury was sufficient to cause death. A fall backward might cause an injury such as described in the case Brown.

Captain Gus. L. Braun testified that he was at the corner of Fifth avenue and Grant street about six o'clock on the evening of the fight; saw Mr. Ramsey coming across the street from Abel's drug store; called on him to stop, and when I came up to him I gave him a cigar, and we started together down Fifth avenue, and when near Cherry alley heard a noise as if say, "Come into the alley and fight me;" could not hear what the other man said, but immediately after making the remark about going into the alley to fight the man that spoke the words struck the other man twice. The man that was struck stepped back a step or two and advanced, and struck at the assailant; they both fell, the man that was struck falling backward, the back of his head striking with great violence on the pavement, producing a noise something like that made by a blow on a muffled bass drum; helped lift the man up; he talked as if he was stunned; as soon as the man that struck him blow got up, he took up his hat and went away.

Robert Garber testified that he heard Brown ask Bennet to go into the alley and fight him; saw him strike Bennett's face, and saw Bennett strike back; Brown fell backward and his head struck the sidewalk.

Wm. Emery was called and gave testimony as to what occurred at Bennett's saloon before the fight. It was similar to that of the other witnesses. When Brown followed Bennet up to Cherry alley he called him a s— of a b——, and asked him to go with him into the alley and fight; Bennett refused, and Brown struck him twice; Bennett then knocked him down and he fell with the back of his head on the sidewalk. Brown.

The cross examination of this witness did not elicit anything new.

William Ramsey testified that he was crossing Grant street to get to Fifth avenue on the evening of the fight, when he was hailed by Captain Braun, who gave him a cigar and the two proceeded down the avenue on the Cathedral side; when near Cherry alley Captain Braun said, "There's a fight;" witness, who was engaged in lighting his cigar, did not look up at once; the first he saw of the difficulty was two men standing face to face on the sidewalk, and the man with his back toward Grant street struck the other and both fell, the one that was struck falling backward, his head striking the pavement so violently as to produce a noise something like that of a stick hat striking a hard substance. As soon as the assaulting party regained his feet he picked up his hat and walked away. He did not attempt to strike the man again after knocking him down.

Several other witness were called, but nothing material was elicited by their testimony.

Nora Wisely, at whose house, on Grant street, the deceased died, testified that she knew Sebastian Brown; he left my house between five and six o'clock on the evening of the homicide; he said he would be back again to take me to the Academy of Music; he came back at ten minutes after seven; he was staggering; I asked him where the dog was; he said he had not taken it with him; he asked me why I had left him; I told him I had not been out of the house; told him he must go and get the dog; he went out and came back again, and said his head hurt him; he said he had been hit on the head with a "dandy-billy;" I could see no marks on his head, and he went up and laid down on the bed and I bathed it for him; he complained of his head all night, and after midnight I went for a doctor, and before I got back he was dead.

Stella West, who stopped with Nora Wisely, corroborated Miss Wisely.

THE DEFENSE.

Mr. Carnahan opened the case for the defense. He said this was a case in which the Commonwealth had presented the whole story. The District Attorney, with his usual fairness, had presented the case to the jury precisely as it stood. The evidence adduced by the Commonwealth was amply sufficient to justify the acquittal of the defendant. It showed that Mr. Bennet, while proceeding from his place of business to his residence was followed by the deceased, who, used very insulting language toward him and assaulted him, and that the defendant, in striking back, exacting in self defense.

Mr. Marshall, of defendant's counsel, then proceeded to examine witnesses, first calling a large number of old gentlemen to testify as to Mr. Bennett's character for peace and good order. They had all known the defendant many years—some of them from infancy—and, without exception, they said Mr. Bennett's character was above reproach.

Philip Weiss testified that he heard Brown call Bennett names and ask him to go into the alley and fight him; Bennett refused, when Brown struck him twice: Bennett struck back and Brown fell on the sidewalk. Frederick Zittenbart testified to the same effect.

The Italian fruit dealer on Fifth avenue, near Smithfield street, testified that he saw Mr. Bennett about supper time; he was going up Fifth avenue as was his custom each evening about that hour; saw a man running after Bennett, and heard him cursing him and calling him bad names. The man followed Bennett up toward the Cathedral.

CHARGE OF THE COURT.

The counsel on both sides agreed to submit the case without argument, and Judge Stowe proceeded to charge the jury. The Court, after giving the legal definition of manslaughter, said the entire question involved in this case seemed to be whether the defendant had struck the blow in proper self-defense. If he had used a deadly weapon he would have been guilty of murder, but the evidence showed that no weapon was used, that he struck with his fist. It appeared also from the evidence that the defendant had been subjected to pursuit, insult and indignity, and that he had made no resistance until he had been struck twice by the deceased. The jury were directed to view the case in this light: If Brown had not lost his life in consequence of the affray, and considering himself aggrieved, had brought the defendant into court for trial on a charge of assault and battery, would the evidence given in this trial be sufficient to convict? If not, the defendant is not guilty of the crime charged in the indictment. If the evidence showed that the defendant struck the blow in self-defense, the law would not hold him responsible for any unexpected result, even if that result was death. The evidence showed a wonderfully marked degree of forbearance on the part of the defendant, and this fact, taken in connection with the excellent character which he had established, should operate in his favor with the jury when considering the question as to whether the blow was dealt maliciously.

THE DEFENDANT ACQUITTED.

The jury, after a brief consultation, without leaving the box, returned a verdict of not guilty and the defendant was discharged.

There was a demonstration of approval in the court room at the announcement of the verdict, which was promptly checked by the Court. The defendant was warmly congratulated by his many friends, and left the court room a happier man than he has been for many days.

THE DEATH OF MR. O'NEILL.

Meeting of the Newspaper Fraternity—Resolutions of Condolence—Arrangements for the Funeral.

One of the largest meetings of newspaper men of this city, ever held, convened yesterday afternoon at the office of the *Evening Chronicle*, for the purpose of taking suitable action on the death of the late Daniel O'Neill, Esq., one of the editors and proprietors of the *Dispatch*.

On motion of Mr. William Schoyer of the *Post*, Hon. Russell Errett, of the COMMERCIAL, was elected chairman, and Mr. N. P. Reed, of the *Gazette*, Secretary.

A committee of five, consisting of Mr. Jas. P. Barr, of the *Post*, Mr. Wm. Neeb, of the *Freiheits Freund*, Mr. R. P. Nevin, of the *Leader*, Mr. J. C. Harper and Mr. H. H. Byram of the *Telegraph*, was appointed to prepare and submit resolutions expressive of the sentiment of the meeting. The committee retired, and soon returned and reported the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God, in his inscrutable wisdom, to remove from the sphere of usefulness here on earth, Daniel O'Neill, one of the editors and proprietors of the Pittsburgh *Dispatch*; and whereas, our deceased co-laborer had ever ranked among the foremost of the fraternity in all the essential qualifications for progressive journalism; and whereas, the deceased was always alive to the interests of the people, in their broadest sense, exerting the influence of his journal at all times for the public good; and whereas, in his social and business intercourse with his fellow journalists he was upright and honorable; therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of Daniel O'Neill the journalistic fraternity have lost one of their most active and accomplished members, the city of his adoption one of its most enterprising citizens, and the people an able and consistent advocate of their interests.

Resolved, That we hereby tender to the bereaved family our sincerest sympathies in their affliction.

Resolved, That we will attend the funeral of the deceased in a body.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the journals of the city, and that a copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

ACTION OF FORMER EMPLOYES.

After the adjournment of the general press meeting, there was a meeting of the gentlemen formerly employed in editorial or reportorial capacities upon the *Dispatch*, while the deceased controlled that journal. The following persons were present:

Wm. Anderson, Major Will M. Hartzell, Frank P. Case, J. V. Cracraft, J. M. Caldwell, H. H. Byram, T. E. Hewitt, James Rattigan, John I Nevin, Chas. G. Foster, C. N. Shaw, E. K. Hart, Stephen Quinon, C. E. Locke.

Mr. C. E. Locke of the *Chronicle* was elected Chairman. Messrs. H. H. Byram, F. P. Case and Charles G. Foster were appointed a committee on resolutions and presented the following:

WHEREAS, As co-workers with the deceased the fullest opportunities have been given us for estimating the personal and professional qualities of the late Daniel O'Neill,

Resolved, That, living he merited the highest testimonial of our good wishes and that dead, we feel the sincerest sorrow for his loss. He was active, energetic and appreciative in his workings and generous and companionable at all other times. He encouraged industry by his example and rewarded it afterward without stint.

His memory will ever remain green in our hearts.

The resolution was adopted and the meeting adjourned.

PROCESSES FOR COSTS.

Judge Stowe Has Something to Say on the Subject.

In the Quarter Sessions yesterday morning Judge Stowe made some remarks in regard to the serving of processes on parties for costs in certain cases ignored by the Grand Jury. The remarks were called forth by the case of Alice Graham, prosecutrix in an assault and battery case, who was arrested on a process for costs, amounting to $9, on an ignored bill. Counsel stated that she had not been notified to appear before the Grand Jury, and that she was unable to assume the costs.

Judge Stowe further inquired into the facts in the case and ascertained that the prosecutrix had not been held in a recognizance, and was not bound to appear; had not been subpœnaed, and therefore it was unjust to arrest her on an attachment or process. She was a poor woman and would likely have to go to jail in case the costs were not paid. The judge took occasion to remark that there were no grounds for arresting the woman, and he wanted it understood that processes must not issue in cases of this kind hereafter, until he had examined the papers in the case. When bills are ignored in consequence of the failure of the parties to appear, processes must not issue in the nature of writs of capias demandi. He therefore directed that the writs be suspended for the present.

Mr. Coyle also brought to the attention of the Court the case of Barbara Wolf vs. Christ Koch, in which the bill had been ignored and the prosecutrix arrested on a process for costs for $16. The counsel stated that Koch, when arrested, waived a hearing and gave bail for court, and that Mrs. Wolf attended the Grand Jury for two or three days, and during her absence the case was called up and ignored.

Judge Stowe referred to the case just disposed of as above indicated, and instructed the counsel to prepare a rule to show cause why the bill of costs and attachments should not be set aside. The case was returned by Alderman Koenig.

The process of Assistant District Attorney has been to call up the case left over from the preceding term, and in the absence of the prosecutors the bills would be ignored and the costs placed upon the prosecutors. The Court holds that the law requires that these cases should be called up three terms, and that if the prosecutors had not been bound over to appear they are not to blame. The judge intimated that the Court would hereafter inquire into such cases before processes should issue.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

The drama of "Neck and Neck" will be given for the last time here this evening, with Mr. Stetson in the leading part. To-morrow evening, for his benefit, a new local sensational drama, entitled "The Boss," and the popular play of "Black-Eyed Susan" will be presented, as also at Saturday's matinee. Saturday evening, "Pope's Night," "The Boss" and "Nick of the Woods" are promised. This will close Mr. Stetson's engagement.

"Dan'l Druce."

Monday evening next will bring to us Mr. E. L. Davenport, the gifted tragedian, with Gilbert's new play, "Dan'l Druce," an outline of the story of which has already been given. It is pronounced as among the very best of recent dramatic works, and will be well represented in every particular. It will be a welcome change from the sensationism of the present week.

Library Hall—Pantomime.

Grimaldi Adams, successor to the lamented Fox, and his pantomime troupe will give the first of their performances in this city at Library Hall this evening. Wherever they have appeared they have been enthusiastically greeted, and it is said that they present the only new tricks and transformations seen for a long time. The old Broadway "Humpty Dumpty" takes a new and fresh shape in their hands, and pleases everybody. In addition to the performers in the pantomime, a large number of talented specialty artists appear in the harlequinade, giving new songs, dances, juggling acts, etc. It has been a long time since we have had a first-class pantomime, and, if the tastes of the people have not changed wonderfully, these new candidates for favor will be warmly welcomed.

The Theatricals in Connellsville.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings next, Mr. J. N. Gotthold and the Opera House company will give entertainments in the school hall in Connellsville. The programme for the first evening includes the great moral play of "Ten Nights in a Barroom," with Mr. Gotthold as *Joe Morgan*, and the popular farce of "Rough Diamond," for the second, the "Gunmaker of Moscow" and the "Quiet Family." Readers of the COMMERCIAL in that vicinity are advised to attend, as the performances will be well worthy of patronage.

Local Option Meeting To-Day.

The County Convention of the friends of Local Option will assemble in Lafayette Hall this morning at ten o'clock.

Rev. S. H. Nesbit, D.D., Chairman of the County Executive Committee, will call the meeting to order, when a permanent chairman will be chosen. After organization Dr. George K. Johnston, Chairman of the State Executive Committee, will make a statement of the movement in the Legislature and State.

There will be three sessions of the Convention—morning, afternoon and evening. Dr. Snyder, pastor of Emory M. E. church, will open the discussion in the morning session and will be followed by others. Rev. W. H. Gill will open the discussion in the afternoon and Rev. I. C. Pershing, D. D., in the evening.

During the day and evening Hon. Felix R. Brunot, Hon. S. A. Purviance, Rev. S. M. Vernon, Rev. C. E. Felton, Miss F. E. Willard, Miss Lee A. Starr, Rev. Marcus Ormond and other prominent speakers will address the meeting. The Executive Committee have some prospects of securing the services of Chaplain McCabe for the occasion. If they succeed in doing so, the exercises will be interspersed with his soul-stirring songs.

THE COUNTY FINANCES.

Annual Report of Controller Warner—Receipts and Expenditures for 1876.

Henry Warner, Esq., County Controller, submitted his annual statement to the Court, yesterday, as required by law. The report was made up of a mass of figures, giving the fiscal operations in detail, and accompanied with a verbal statement, which we append in full, as containing about all that the general reader will be interested in knowing. An official summary of the finances of the county, published by authority, will be found in another column.

The following is the explanatory statement of the Controller:

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas No. 1 of Allegheny county:

GENTLEMEN—Herewith I submit the annual statement of the fiscal affairs of Allegheny county for 1876. The gross expenditures of the county for the past year have been very large, viz., $734,231 97—exceeding in amount those of 1875 by $84,505 20, and the estimate made at the beginning of the year by $17,906 42, and creating a deficiency of $13,062 29.

This is the result of two causes, independent of what might be termed the usual or ordinary expenses of the county. First of which was the final settlement with the Nation Trust Company, which took place during the year, resulting in a loss which appears among the expenditures of $48 363 17. The whole amount on deposit with the Nation Trust Company having been therefore counted as cash, could not be treated in any other manner, until final settlement was had and a warrant issued to the Treasurer, for the amount of the loss, for the purpose of settling his accounts. Second—Previous to the commencement of my term of office, as will appear from the Controller's reports, it had become customary to issue a warrant for the amount of the county tax in the year succeeding its payment, for the purpose of preventing two payments appearing in the same year, and thereby causing the appearance of an excessive amount in any one year, which did not properly belong to the expenses of that year. But in 1876 a change of Treasurers occurred, in the midst of the fiscal year, and I deemed it proper, to prevent any complication of accounts, to issue a warrant for the State tax paid in that year, as I had already done in that year for the payment of the State tax for 1875—throwing, for once, two payments for the State into one year—the amount of the State tax for one year being $67,981 80. Adding the amount of the State tax and the loss in the Nation Trust Company together, we have $106,297 97, which cannot in any sense be said to belong to the ordinary expense of the county for 1876, and which deducted from the gross expenditures already given, leaves a balance for comparison or for any year, of $627,934. Being an actual reduction from the expenditures for 1875 of $21,792 17.

EXPENSES OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

The actual expenses of the county government for all purposes since the commencement of my term, including new buildings and county bridges, have been as follows: For 1872, $666,389 88; for 1873, $647,129 24; for 1874, $645,053 90; for 1875, $649,726 17; for 1876, $627,934. I am gratified to state that the county debt has been reduced during 1876 $97,006 07. The constant reduction in our debt is resulting in a large saving of interest—amounting annually, at the present time, to $25,000 since 1872. In the department of receipts, your attention is called to the small amount of fines returned as collected by the Court of Quarter Sessions, which is much smaller than ever before since the establishment of the office. It would also seem as if fewer verdict fees should be returned for the Common Pleas Courts—the amount from both indicating but 348 jury verdicts for the year.

THE FEES AND SALARIES.

The salary system introduced into this county in 1871, and extended in 1876 to all counties in the State, of over 150,000 inhabitants—while still profitable both to persons having business with the several public offices where fees are paid, and to the taxpayers in general—is not maintaining the character for profitableness which I think it should, although it is but fair to say that the system as yet has not had a perfect trial—and will not, until the act of 1876 gets fairly into operation. The large amount of compensation demanded and remaining unpaid in the Prothonotary's office, which, I am informed, amounts to almost, if not altogether, $20,000 per annum, is a matter of serious consideration. In this connection I would state that Mr. Kennedy, the Prothonotary, is making strenuous efforts to repair this evil. He found originally on deposit with the Nation Trust Company, when it failed, was $155,527 67, on account of which sum the county received on January 14, 1875, $9,645 45; on February 17, 1875, $17,011 42, and on October 14, 1876, $82,231 81, in all $109,-210 64, or about 70¼ per cent. of the original amount; the actual loss being $46,3 7 03. Which appears among the expenditures and $48,363 17 which appears in the contingent fund, viz., $2,046 14, being interest, which had been charged up against the company after the failure, and $46,317 03 being actually taken notice that it was good for the principal and interest of its debts.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STOCK.

In June, 1876, a re-examination of the old railroad bond transactions of the county, led to a communication being addressed to the President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, requesting a statement of our accounts from the books of the railroad company, which was promptly furnished, showing that there was to the credit of the county, on their books, 570 shares original stock, and 24 shares stock dividends or watered stock, to the par value of $40,850; also accrued cash dividends on the same, over and above the amount paid for interest, as I had already done in the amount of $25,450 50. In all, a credit to the county, amounting in cash value to $66,300 50. This large sum is held under the old agreement, between the Canal Commissioners and the Railroad Company (1848), as security for the ultimate payment of $28,500 of outstanding bonds of the county, issued for stock in the railroad company, and guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The Sinking Fund Commission immediately took measures to bring this matter to a final settlement, and secure the large balance which would accrue to the county, viz., $37,800 50. This will not probably be accomplished for a period of two years, when the bonds in question will be due, they having originally been issued for a term of thirty years from 1848. All of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY WARNER,
County Controller.

THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

The Meeting at the "Old Home" Last Evening—Other Meetings and Announcements.

The Fifth avenue M. P. Church was comfortably filled last evening, but not by any means crowded, as it has heretofore been. This condition of things may be accounted for by the fact of extra attractions elsewhere. The announcement that Miss Frances Willard would speak at the Old Home in Allegheny last evening, no doubt, had the effect to draw away many of the regular attendants at the "Old Home." The meeting was presided over by Mr. Joseph R. Hunter, and the following persons made short speeches:

Mr. Hunter suffered much from the intemperance and thanked God that Francis Murphy was induced to come to Pittsburgh. He intended to make himself conspicuous in the temperance cause as he had been while he was an intemperate man.

Mr. John McCombs was no speech maker but would contribute what little talent he possessed toward the temperance cause. He felt happier than he could find words to express since he signed the pledge; everything at home was brighter, business better and peace reigned supreme in all his walks and ways.

Mr. Charles Hughes had drank but little in vain. He thought that the man who would not exert his influence in behalf of his fellow man would be held accountable. He exhorted all to do their whole duty in this great work.

Mr. George Miller said that the people as he passed along the street would cry out, "There goes Murphy's blower." He would rather "blow" for Murphy than to "blow" for the rum shops as he used to do. He thanked God that he had the evidence within his soul that he had taken all his sins away. He was praying that God might wipe away all the liquor from off the face of the earth.

Mr. S. W. Elliott and others made short speeches, after which the meeting adjourned.

PERSONAL.

The committee consisting of General Moorhead, Chancellor Wood, Joseph Dilworth and Jos. R. Hunter have had a conference with Mr. Murphy in reference to his stay in the city. A salary of $7,000 per year was offered Mr. Murphy, but he positively decined to accept any stated salary, nor would he consent to enter into any agreement either to remain in the city permanently or for any year. He said he intended to make Pittsburgh his headquarters, but he did not think it right to confine his labors exclusively to this city.

The Bliss Fund.

H. K. Porter, Treasurer of the P. P. Bliss Fund, acknowledges the receipt of the following sums from Sabbath schools in this vicinity:

First Presbyterian Sunday school, McKeesport	$ 5 34
Mt. Washington Baptist Sunday school	3 07
Sunnyside Mission Sunday school, Pittsburgh	1 20
First Presbyterian church Sunday school, East Liberty	17 17
Livermore Sunday school	65
Thirty-seventh street Baptist Sunday school, Pittsburgh	7 00
Second United Presbyterian church Sunday school, Allegheny	12 85
First Presbyterian church Sunday school, Bucyrus, Ohio	4 50
Yough Valley Sunday school, Boston	80
Eighth Presbyterian Sunday school, Pittsburgh	50
Total	$ 52 79
Previously acknowledged	402 80
Grand total	$455 59

This account will be closed on Saturday, and remittance made to Chicago.

THE POLICE TROUBLE.

Counter Statements By The Mayor and Ex Chief Hartzell—Information Made Against Roger O'Mara—A Judicial Investigation.

In order that the proposed investigation as to the connection of Detective Roger O'Mara with the thieves Ferguson and Ellis may be judicial and through Detective James Scott has, at the instance of the Mayor, made information against O'Mara, charging him with receiving a bribe. The information is brought under the Thirteenth section of the city code of police regulations, which says: "Any police officer who shall be convicted before the Mayor of receiving any bribe or illegal fee or reward, either for performing or neglecting to perform his legal duties, shall be fined fifty dollars, and shall forth-with be discharged from the service of the city."

In aid of this investigation application was made before Judge Stowe yesterday by Mr. Swartzwelder for a writ of *habeas corpus* to secure the attendance at the investigation into the charges against Detective O'Mara of Ferguson and Ellis, now confined in the county jail. The first application was refused by the Court, but subsequently it was renewed by Mr. Swartzwelder, stating that the investigation was to be a judicial one. The Judge has not yet announced his decision, but, in any event, the testimoney of these men will be had, as it can be taken in jail.

STATEMENT OF THE MAYOR.

On Tuesday evening Mayor McCarthy made substantially the following statement to several reporters. He said: "On last Sunday evening I sent my clerk to Chief Hartzell with a notice that charges were made against him, and that he was suspended from duty until they were explained. In a short time the clerk returned and told me that Hartzell had sent the answer that if I didn't withdraw the charges by nine o'clock on Monday morning that he would make the town so hot for me that I could not stay in it twenty four hours; that he knew enough to damn me, and would do it; that I didn't know how much he knew, but if the charges were not withdrawn I would find out. Between eight and nine o'clock on Monday morning Hartzell was in the front office. The charges were not withdrawn, and at ten o'clock the Chief sent me his resignation, which I immediately accepted."

At this point Clerk Metzger being appealed to, added: "When I told the Mayor what Hartzell had said about driving him out of the city if the charges were not withdrawn, he replied, 'Well, if he knows anything let him publish it. I'm certain I don't know of anything wrong that I have done.' I said that if he was guilty of any wrong-doing he certainly out to know it himself. The Mayor answered, 'I think I ought to.'"

The Mayor then said that the most thorough investigation into the O'Mara case would be made, and he wanted all who had anything to say against his officers or himself to come forward. In the further course of conversation the Mayor said that the entire proceeding was the result of a conspiracy to defeat his chances in running for Controller on the Citizen's ticket, and in fact that he would do so having been made public.

In closing the Mayor referred to his public career and said his honesty could not be successfully assailed. As Mayor he had been offered bribes but had spurned them. He claimed that the city is quieter now than ever before.

STATEMENT OF THE EX-CHIEF.

Last evening Major Harizell made the following statement to a reporter. He said, with regard to the statement above given: "Mr. Metzgar's story is substantially correct. Feeling badly about the way things were going in the office, I on Sunday evening sent a note to the Mayor's Clerk, requesting an interview with him (the Clerk.) I didn't get it; but late that evening—about ten o'clock—I met the Clerk on the street, when he handed me a note from the Mayor containing the charges against me, and notice that I was suspended. In the excitement of the moment I used pretty strong language; but of the whole transaction about the case can be brought out, the language I used may not be considered too strong."

He continued: "In investigating Roger O'Mara, the Mayor is investigating himself over Roger O'Mara's shoulders, and sitting as judge in his own case. In regard to any conspiracy against the Mayor, it is but an idle subterfuge. In making the assertion the Mayor places himself in the position of a drowning man catching at a straw. My action in the matter was at my own instance. I consulted with no one. There was but one other person beside myself who was cognizant of my letter of resignation before it reached the Mayor; that person was his own counsel, Mr. Swartzwelder. I met Mr. Swartzwelder in his own office, and read him the letter. He wrote the letter in the lock-up after nine o'clock on Monday morning."

Referring to the charges made against him Major Hartzell said: "Well, in regard to the charges made against me I have only to repeat what I have already said, that it was a trumped up matter, intended to frighten me into silence. The charge against me of appropriating money is without foundation. I challenge prosecution."

A PASTOR IN TROUBLE.

Baptist Congregational Meeting—Election of the Board of Deacons—A Committee of Investigation Appointed.

For some time past there has been whisperings of trouble in the Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, the Rev. Dr. Pearson, pastor, being charged with certain improprieties. The matter was before the Board of Deacons on Monday evening last, and all of them, except Mr. James Hutchinson, decided to tender their resignations. It is stated that this action was taken rather than go into an investigation of such a case and that it would appear from the best information to be obtained that the great majority of the congregation firmly believe in the purity of the pastor, and agree with the Deacons in the reasons for their resignations.

A congregational meeting of a private nature was held last evening, when the resignations were tendered and accepted. The trouble was discussed at length, Dr. Pearson himself demanding the fullest and freest investigation. It was finally decided to appoint a committee of seven to conduct the investigation, which was done. The congregation then proceeded to the election of a new Board of Deacons. Members of the congregation were very reticent in regard to the proceedings, but the feeling appears to be as stated, strongly in favor of Dr. Pearson. Intimations are thrown out that the gossip of a few ladies and the finding of some empty wine bottles in the cellar at Dr. Pearson's residence are the causes of the scandal.

ALLEGHENY FINANCES.

Statement of the City Controller of Allegheny for the Month of January, 1877.

Following is the report of Controller Brown, of Allegheny, for the month of January, 1877:

RECEIPTS.

City taxes, &c	$ 2,105 01
Markets	369 88
Delinquent taxes	10,896 00
Regulation of lots	15 00
Ground rents	825 15
Interest on unexpended balances	14 44
Grading and paving	202 40
Sewer construction	352 26
Opening and widening streets	1,037 25
Water rents, second assessment	700 00
Water rents, per metre	416 52